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JUNE 2003 ♥ VOL. 28 NO. 6

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On the Cover

A U.S. Marine from the 1st MEU stands guard at a burning oil well at Rumeila, 23 March 2003.
Oil wells were set ablaze by retreating Iraqi troops at second largest offshore oil field, near the Kuwait border.







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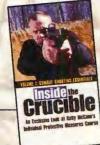
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INSIDE THE

An Exclusive Look at Kelly McCann's Individual Protective Measures Course

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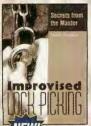
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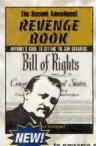
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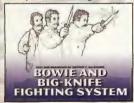
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by Dwight C. McLemore

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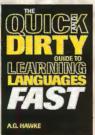
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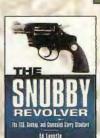
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The War In Iraq

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or decades, Saddam Hussein has tortured, imprisoned, raped and murdered the Iraqi people; invaded neighboring countries without provocation; and threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction.

The time has come to end his reign of terror. On your young shoulders rest the hopes of mankind.

When I give you the word, together we will cross the Line of Departure, close with those forces that choose to fight, and destroy them.

Our fight is not with the Iraqi people, nor is it with members of the Iraqi army who choose to surrender. While we will move swiftly and aggressively against those who resist, we will treat all others with decency, demonstrating chivalry and soldierly compassion for people who have endured a lifetime under Saddam's oppression.

Chemical attack, treachery, and use of the innocent as human shields can be expected, as can other unethical tactics. Take it all in stride. Be the hunter, not the hunted: Never allow your unit to be caught with its guard down. Use good judgment and act in best interests of our Nation.

You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon. Share your courage with each other as we enter the uncertain terrain north of the Line of Departure.

Keep faith in your comrades on your left and right and Marine Air overhead.

Fight with a happy heart and strong spirit.

For the mission's sake, our country's sake, and the sake of the men who carried the Division's colors in past battles — who fought for life and never lost their nerve carry out your mission and keep your honor clean.

Demonstrate to the world there is "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy" than a U.S. Marine.

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OF Covers The War

LT. COL. ROBERT K. BROWN, USAR (RET.)

hard to believe that 12 years ago and a few weeks, I was one of the first journalists (if not the first), barreling into Kuwait city at the head of the the Kuwati/Saudi Armored Brigade. No thanks to the U.S. military. If you weren't one of their few

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flak



Green Gates Of Hell



In the February 2002 issue, Dana Drenkowski's article "The Green Gates of Hell" about an F-4 mission in Vietnam is a good read that is marred by suspect information about his ordnance payload. He describes the use of what he calls "Wampum," which must be slang for widearea anti-personnel mine (WAAPM) carried

within a CBU-42.

However, he further describes the dispensed munitions as "little plastic minelets, known as 'toe-poppers,'" which is incorrect. The CBU-42 consists of a SUU-38 dispenser holding 540 BLU-54/B bomblets. These are small metal spheres that have spring-loaded trip wires that pop out and also include a self-destruct feature. It would be very unwise to try to sweep them away with a broom.

In addition, he says that the Wampum pods are lighter than heavy iron bombs, which is only true if he carries one CBU-42 under each wing. He doesn't say how many Wampums were carried versus an iron bomb load, but each Wampum weighs 873 pounds, so obviously that's more than a 500-pounder or 750-pounder.

As for the story about the shelf life expiring, while possible, I know first hand that the similar BLU-63s were dropped during Desert Storm, so those CBUs had been in storage for a long time.

Burke Toliver

(Here is a response from Drenkowski, delayed somewhat by the fact he is again on active duty)

CBU 42s were as different from CBU 42As as BLU 118s (500-lb. Napalm cans) are from BLU 118As (1,000-lb. thermobaric bombs). We are talking apples and oranges, Sir. Experiments were going on with various sorts of ordnance; some made the grade and some did not, such as the downward ejected bomblets we used that day.

The downward ejecting canisters of the Wampum bomblets/mines could only be carried one per hard point under each wing of an F4, whereas iron bombs were carried on the same hard points in threes on Triple Ejecting Racks (TERs) or in sixes with the Multiple Ejecting Racks (MERs); therefore, three 500-lb. bombs per hard point equals 1,500 lbs. versus only 800+lbs. for the single CBU dispenser on the same hard point.

Any good fighter jock also knows that "500-lb." and "750-lb." bombs did not really weigh what they said: They weighed anywhere from 50 to 100 lbs. more than their names. Don't ask me why — that decision was made above my pay grade.

CBU-42 information is no longer available with Jane's nor

any other major authoritative source, probably because of the quick expiration of dates on the bomblets. By the way, on a similar mission in Laos, I used World War II-era Mk 36 phosphorus firebombs on an anti-aircraft cannon crew, all because the expiration dates came up that month. They worked just fine, to the dismay of the gun crew. ...

Check Six!! (There's always someone behind you, trying to get in a shot!)

Dana Drenkowski

No Regrets



A couple of questions:

In the past, your publication supported the Afghan Freedom Fighters, is there any regret about that now?

Do you feel that this may have supported Osama?

In the future, do you plan to keep your support functions stateside for the GIs and

their families, where it is needed most?

Good magazine, good articles. Not picking a fight, just want the truth/response.

(submitted to SOF website; name not given)

You seem to be under the impression that Afghanistan is our enemy, or that we are at war with Afghanistan, neither of which is true. We are at war in Afghanistan, against the terrorist group al-Qaeda, which was in large measure harbored by the Afghan Taliban regime, which had been in control of the southern part of the country. The Taliban, in case you didn't know, is largely the creation of the intelligence service of our, umm, friends, the Pakistanis. The anti-Soviet Afghan freedom fighters we supported were the enemy of the Taliban; indeed, SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown had run-ins with the Taliban. There is no regret whatsoever over our having supported Afghan freedom-fighters. We'd do it again in a heartbeat. Why do you ask? Do you think our support for anti-Soviet freedom-fighters in Afghanistan can somehow be transmographied as having subsequently supported the tyrant Taliban regime, or the terrorists they harbored? Do you think that all the time, or just when you roll smoke? There have been some regrets expressed around the office, however, over our past support for the French.

As for the future, who knows what it will hold? But with our last breath we will actively oppose tyrants, and help wherever we can, those who would be free. As far as where we will do this, we would hope to do it wherever tyranny is found, from Waco and Ruby Ridge to Salisbury and Baghdad, and any points along the way. And as long as the best bulwark against tyranny this country has is our men and women in uniform, we will support

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our military and police, as well.

Be sure and read the interview with Afghan General Safi, in this issue, for a perspective you may not have seen on events in Afghanistan.

Knife Control

Last year, eight children were killed and 15 people injured in a grade school in Japan by a janitor who went on a stabbing spree with an 11-inch knife. While America is a gun culture, Japan is a knife culture; [therefore] we should demand that Japan be subject to knife control. Register them, require a seven-day waiting period on all transfers or purchases (only through licensed dealers), require extensive knife safety training and owner licensing. They need knife safes and blade locks. They should develop a smart knife that will only work on sushi. This is for the safety of the children. Let's have a knife-free zone around every school, for the sake of the children. Like the Japanese who want us to have a gun-free America, lets have a knife-free Japan.

SSG Edward W. K. Pfeifer (USA [SF] Ret.)

And the Result Will Be ...

During the decades-long Cold War, the leftist intellectuals of the world began to view the adversaries as moral equivalents. This was apparent in the writings of such authors as John Le Carré, who was privy to MI-6 and MI-5 secrets, and who began with the Soviets as "bad guys" and wound up in

his later efforts not seeing any difference between the Soviet bloc and the allies.

As the long-delayed build-up and inaction in Kuwait continue, a wave of anti-Americanism is surfacing among those normally considered our allies. Not just France, Germany and Russia are condemning the U.S., but now Canada is attacking us. We are in a *Pax Romana* situation, wherein we not only provide a "Sword and Shield" at considerable cost to defend these countries, but also have subsidized them financially.

No matter how this mess turns out, I see a massive movement within this country to turn its back on the rest of the world and embrace a Fortress-America outlook, and "to hell with all of you." It is possible that rampant isolationism will be the outcome of this exercise.

Ernest L. Smith III

Militarization, Again ...



Regarding the first Flak letter and your response in the April 2003 issue concerning the militarization of police:

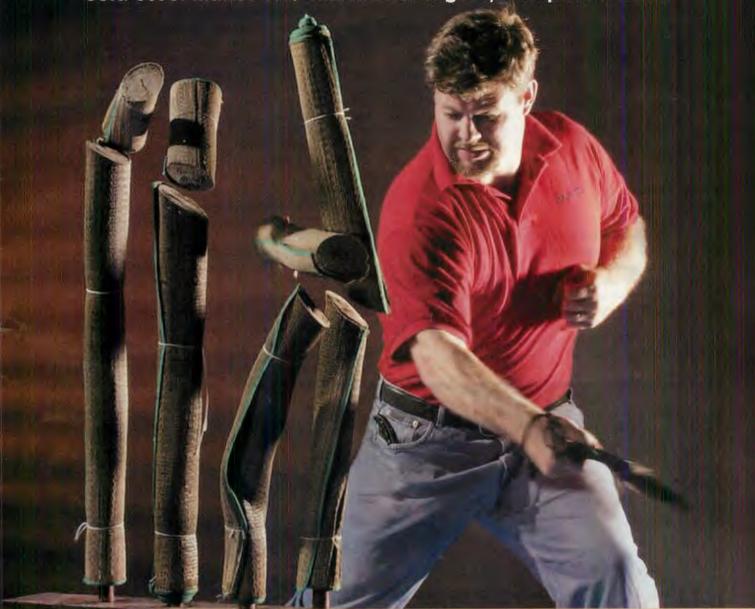
As much as I appreciate and admire good police work, I've seen and experienced enough locally that I, too, am concerned about the militarization of them.

I think as a society in general we are overly dependent on police for our protection. This creates an overly demanding expectation of them to do more than they can or should do.



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This over-dependence on the nanny-state to control and protect us is not only undermining our police but also our constitution, monetary system and liberty.

Since I'm not the only one with an interest in this, I'd like to recommend SOF to start a regular sit-rep type article/map that tracks interesting trends nation- and worldwide about "local military" or policing activities, good and bad. That way we all can get a more realistic picture of what's really worth worrying about.

For example, who is and isn't breaking-off hot pursuits fast enough. How many other Rampart-type situations appear to be out there and where? Who has the most-respected or disliked police department? Who's using unarmed policewomen to control demonstrators, and is it working? Etc.

I'll bet lots of info is readily available somewhere. I'll also bet that police associations, civil rights groups, criminal defense attorney associations, etc. can point the way.

Your articles on the Boer Wars and on Ranch rescue were great. Thanks.

Norman Nipperus Tempe, Az 85281

We would refer you to the cover stories in the March, 1999 and February, 2001 issues of SOF, which expressed in detail our concerns over militarization of American police, so those who missed them don't have to write like it's never occurred to us. Having said that, we would reiterate that if there are missteps in that direction, go after the politicians who control police, not police per se. We would also reiterate that equipment does not use the police: Police use the equipment. Sure, there may be a phenomenon where if you have a hammer, everything starts to

look like a nail, but I really can't imagine a PD running amok and attacking the body politic because they had an M249. As far as using unarmed cops, that's fine where it will work (such as in non-violent demonstrations, as you mention). But we pay cops to risk their life — not throw it away.

And to the cop who wrote in candidly saying that he did not join up to be a hero, but because it was a good job, we point out that the same holds for the hundreds of cops who died in the Twin Towers. Like GIs who may sign up for the benefits as much as out of patriotism, they didn't sign up to give their life: but when duty called, without hesitation they lay their life on the line for those they served. And that's a pretty good definition of "hero."

One last time regarding cops having access to belt-feds, we will say they should have access to at least what the bad guys have, and feel-good anti-gun laws notwithstanding, the streets of some American cities are free-fire zones. To consider anything less than giving cops weapons parity with the bad guys reminds me of the bimbo journalist I saw on TV this morning, asking if the ongoing operations in Iraq were "really fair" because the Coalition had better equipment. Belt-feds and even artillery has been in police inventory in the United States for nearly a hundred years and it has not lead to their militarization. Oddly enough, the large-city police forces we would tend to worry about becoming heavy-handed, have been the least-likely to properly arm their men on the front line.

SOF Welcomes Letters To The Editor.

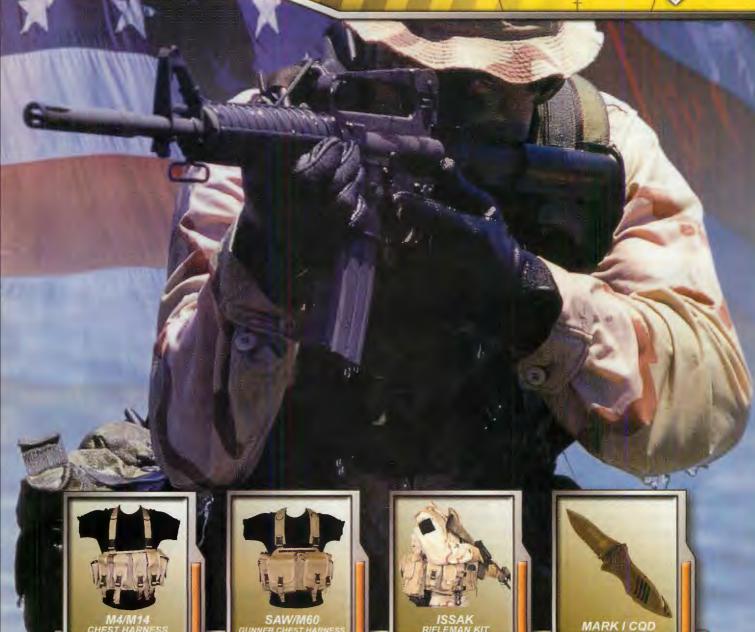
Letters may be edited for space considerations. Please address correspondence to: Editor, SOF Magazine, 5735 Arapahoe, Ste. A5, Boulder, CO 80303; or E-Mail to: editorsof@aol.com.



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Bulletin Board

Free American Flag Decals

Spotts Specialty Company of Wheeling, WV, is offering free American flag decals to anyone interested, if they send a self-addressed and stamped envelope (SASE). There is no expiration date on this offer, which is made solely to promote pride in the USA and support for America's armed forces worldwide.

Folks in uniform need not put a stamp on their SASE, as Spotts Specialty Company will pay for their postage.

Send your SASE to Spotts Specialty Co., Dept. SOF, 2242 Market Street, Third Floor #2, Wheeling, WV 26003. Visit their web sites at http://26003spo00.clickprint.com or http://60604spo00.clickprint.com.

And when you write, why not throw in a buck or two to help with the postage costs they bear for GIs?

Let's Re Franc

There is a burgeoning grass-roots backlash movement against French products, as an expression of displeasure for the way the Chirac government has tried to protect French financial interests in Iraq at the expense helping the Iraqi people be rid of one of the most despicable — albeit profitable — tyrants to come down the pike since WW II. Perhaps you are unaware just what French financial interests exist in the U.S. You might be surprised to know that "American" brands from Wild Turkey to Motel 6, from Car and Driver and Road and Track to Parents magazines, from B.F. Goodrich to BIC and RCA, are all French- owned. We're not lending editorial support to a boycott of French goods at this time, but have to note that if Chirac likes the taste of Saddam's bloody money, he probably wouldn't like ours anyway. There are hundreds of "American" "household name" products and services owned by French interests. Some lists of them are www.newsmax.com/archive/ available on-line at print.shtml?@=2003/3/11/144347 or check out the FrogWeenie gang at www.metrospy.com . And enjoy your Liberty fries.

Ivan To Iraq? Haven't Found Him Yet!

During the run-up to the war with Iraq, when Russia joined France in promising to veto a vote in the Security Council, *Pravda* reported that "around ten thousand Russian citizens have applied for entry visas into Iraq to defend this country against the planned aggression by the warmongering USA and UK ..."

The story went on to say that "the requests come from young males, some with combat experience, who describe



Let's Roll! Free from SureFire to SOF readers only, is a poster-sized version of their "Let's Roll" ad. The poster is 22x34 inches, and up to three are free for the cost of the shipping tube and postage, which is \$5.99 for the lot. You can order through www.sure-fire.com; or call 800-482-3062. Thanks to the good guys at SureFire!

themselves as [volunteers] who are willing to defend Iraq against the illegal armed aggression of the USA and the United Kingdom, two countries which continue to follow a belligerent stance on crisis management, wholly outside the generally accepted concepts of a New World Order based upon multilateralist approaches to problem solving ..."

Four observations here: 1) doesn't look like much has changed in Russian journalism, even the jingoism, 2) if any young Russian volunteers have had combat experience, they got it fighting Muslims in Chechnya, 3) Russia is owed billions and billions of dollars worth of oil by Saddam, 4) Russian and French companies control virtually all of the UN "oil for food" program with Iraq.

Jump over the pack and quickly learn the kick-ass stuff you NEED to win any fight!

Worth \$49 - No Obligation! **Are You Making These 3 Life Threatening Mistakes In Fighting?**

By Vladimir Smith

(Dateline: Visalia, CA) You can learn a lot in a hospital. For example... there are entire wards filled with "expert" motorcycle riders who forgot to wear their helmet on that one day they dumped their hog on an oil slick. Bounced their skull along twenty yards of asphalt and scrambled their brains.

It's the same with fighters. The most common whine coming from a guy in a hospital bed, jaw wired shut, pins holding bones together, IV dripping... is "I thought I knew how to fight."

Yeah, you "thought". Well, the dirty, nasty secret among REAL streetfighters is... most guys do NOT know how to fight to survive or win. And it's obvious.

Here are the mistakes most guys make that get them hurt (or killed):

- 1. You train with someone who doesn't fight regularly. Or, worse, a black belt who has never actually hit another person to save his own hide. (That's about 99.99% of the black belt "teachers" out there.)
- 2. You train for years in a style that doesn't actually work in the real world. Hospitals are filled with guys who confidently dropped into their fancy stance at the start of the fight... and ended up on the ground a second later getting the crap stomped out of them.
- 3. You never learn even the basics of the "fighter's mindset"... that special vicious way of thinking that actually turns you from a mild-mannered human into a lethal beast in the blink of an eye.

All this is a problem for most guys. Where can you go to find a REAL fighter willing to take you under his wing and teach you EV-ERYTHING about kicking ass? Heck, even Navy SEALS admit they get lousy "official" training in hand-to-hand combat.

But they don't sit around and whine about it. Not the ones who want to live. No. They go out and - on their own - find the...

BEST Combat Teacher They Can Track Down!

The guy they seek out the most eagerly is Paul Vunak.

Paul is the ONLY active streetfighter to successfully condense all the deadly "get the fight over NOW" skills of Bruce Lee ("Enter The Dragon"). Paul trained for 20 years with the notorious Dan Iansanto (Bruce Lee's training partner)... and Paul is acknowledged worldwide as the ONLY man qualified to advance Jeet Kune Do to the "next level". He's the "first choice" instructor of men whose lives depend on being able to win at combat.

Why do SEALS, big-city SWAT cops, and elite "black bag" CIA/FBI operatives flock to Paul for training? The answer is simple:

- A. Paul is constantly testing and refining his skills in real-time fighting - in the street, where there are no rules, and the loser may not wake up. He's an honestgo-God streetfighter with the chops to demolish anyone, of any size, at any time. And he's not a big man (standing about 5'9" and under 160 lbs. soaking wet). Nor was he blessed with extraordinary quickness or agility. He's a "normal" guy who learned the simple, flexible secrets that really work in handto-hand (and hand-against-weapon) combat. Against any opponent, against any style.
- B. He is recognized as the BEST teacher on the planet. After years of experimenting, Paul has perfected a startling "learn it fast" interactive training technology that allows him to "install" nasty, super-advanced skills directly into your muscle memory... on video! That means you can train at home, on your own schedule. Cops and soldiers love that... because they don't have time to waste. Neither do you.
- C. Finally... Paul is so sought-after because... he has an iron-clad reputation for turning ordinary people into vicious "fighting machines" in the shortest time humanly possible. He will change your world literally...

Overnight!

In all of Paul's teaching, there are NO complicated moves. You can master everything in a matter of hours. (In fact, just watching Paul on video will dramatically increase your ability to win any fight! You can pick this stuff up that quickly.)

Even better... you do not need to train constantly to become a master of Paul's system. Many professional fighters feel confident using this stuff after ONE lesson.

And... you do not need to be quick, or coordinated, or even in decent physical shape. All the deadly power comes from extensions of the way your body moves naturally.

This is not "normal" martial arts. It is a simplified (yet super-advanced) fighting system that goes beyond anything you could learn

anywhere else. These are, frankly...

The Most Elite And Dangerous **Fighting Skills You Will Find Anywhere** On The Planet!

Think I'm bragging? Well, don't listen to me, then. Listen to the professionals who trust their friggin' lives with what Paul teaches:

"Finally, the SEALS no longer will be doing reverse punches and flying side kicks while carrying ruc sacks and machine guns. Thanks, Paul!" -- Frank Cucci, former Navy SEAL, current SEAL Team Trainer

"I've got 6 black belts, but Paul is the man who made it all come together for me. It's so simple, it's hard to believe... but I'm here to tell you he teaches the only true art of fighting." -- Paul Iwamato, top bodyguard to U.S. politicians and Hollywood actors

"Paul's stuff is exactly what I've been searching for all my life - simple, easy, direct, and totally devastating." -- Bob Jones, editor of Ground Fighter Magazine

"Most effective self-defense system I've ever used. And I mean used." California Narcotics Task Force Commander -- (name withheld due to security regulations)

"Paul's system will turn the martial arts community on its ear." -- Jim Hinely, SWAT cop and hostage negotiator

"This training will give anybody who watches it immediate tools in self-defense that will make you confident. And anyone from the age of 13 to 80 can use them." -- Sgt. Carlos Hernandez, South Florida Police Tactics instructor

It goes on and on. I've got a file cabinet here stuffed with testimonials from cops, soldiers, FBI agents, CIA foreign operatives. "black bag" assassins the government will never admit exist... and a ton of civilians just like you. People who trained with Paul... quickly absorbed his simple and super-easy skills... and then used what they learned to blow away real-life opponents who threat-

Here's what we've got for you: Paul has been the most respected and best-selling "video" fighting instructor on the planet for nearly two decades. He has developed 3 separate video "packages" of mega-effective fighting skills... each one stuffed with elite, insider info and skills. Even the super-advanced lethal stuff is simple and easy to "get"... at least when you have Paul teaching you. These videos are so popular among pro fighters because as I said before - Paul has learned how to teach everything fast. (And he teaches you

everything he knows.) You walk away from he attempts to fight back. even a casual viewing with new skills that offer you devastating options.

Bought separately, all of Paul's training videos would set you back \$242.50. And, they are hard to find - Paul refuses to "dump" his teachings on the market, and only releases a few videos each year. Professionals know how to get ahold of Paul, but most civilians do not.

We have negotiated a special arrangement with this magazine that will last for exactly one month, no longer. During this short time, you will be able to own the best of Paul's secrets...

Absolutely FREE!

Here's the deal: If you act right now, you can have Paul's entire video library of teaching tapes rushed to your home. You will have an entire 6 months to check this material out... and if you aren't completely blown away with what you see... simply send the tapes back for a complete refund. No questions asked. But...

Keep "Street Safe One" As Your Gift **Just For Checking This Deal Out!**

That's a completely no-risk offer for you. But the best part is... you won't pay \$242.50 to see these best-selling tapes. No. You will get the entire fighting library of tapes... for just \$99. Your \$99 is completely guaranteed, too, just as I said. It will be refunded to you promptly if you decide to return the tapes during your 6-month unconditional guarantee. (But keep Street Safe One, regardless.)

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

- 1. Street Safe One Worldwide bestseller training video, snapped up by the thousands by professionals and men who needed to get street-savvy in a hurry. The super-condensed, supereasy "learn it fast, kick some ass" basics of Paul's most effective techniques. Selling right now for \$42.
- 2. **D.E.V.** (Defeating Extreme Violence) The mega-advanced hand-to-hand fighting techniques Paul teaches soldiers, cops and other pro fighters who must go against trained opponents. You've never seen fighting like this before. 2 tapes in the set, currently selling for \$101.50
- 3. Paul's famous "RAT" Fighting **System** – The most hard-core fighting tapes ever produced, anywhere. Nasty fighting skills that will send bad guys running away in pain and shock and shame. Thousands sold at \$99... and it's still the most sought-after training tape among men who will die unless they can beat skilled opponents in face-to-face combat.

Here's a sample of what you're about to learn: How to instill horrible, blinding pain in your opponent and destroy his weapons as

- The 3 simple "tools" that are the ONLY moves real fighters use in the clutch. Learning these moves slashes your learning curve to almost nothing (even though you're learning advanced skills). are removes 99% of the nonsense from learning to fight to win.
- How to blast through your opponent's "vulnerable zone" like a bull in a china shop, getting into his face so friggin' fast he can't react... and terminate him with vicious efficiency.
- Every street weapon available in a fight, and the only correct way to use them to end the brawl immediately.
- The astonishing secret called "defanging the snake" that will place you above all but the most skilled 1% of street fighters out there! (Actually gives you an advantage going bare-handed against an armed attacker!)
- How to 'blur out' a weapon without getting "stung".
- Why the stupid "standard" martial art advice about knife fighting will get you seriously injured (and lose the fight)... and the only true way to counter and win a knife attack!
- Plus... a complete Master's Level training program for sparring with weapons... with insider secrets that will have you up and running at full speed almost overnight. (This section of the tapes will leave you breathless.)

And a ton more. Too much more to list here. You must see this material for yourself... to believe such amazing skills really can be learned so quickly and effectively.

That's why we've made this deal so simple and straightforward. No fancy details. No strings attached. No risk whatsoever.

Here's what to do now: Just call 1-800-899-8153 and tell whoever answers you want "Paul Vunak's Total Fighter Package". You can use your credit card. Or, fill out the order coupon below and mail it with your check or money order (payable to TRS) to: TRS, 606 E. Acequia Visalia, CA 93292.

This is a very limited offer, completely guaranteed. You must hurry, or you will not get this astonishing material for the one low price... nor will you get to keep the free tape.

P.S. Remember – you get \$242.50 worth of the most sought-after fight training, for just \$99... you have 6 full months to decide if you like what you see... and you can return the tapes for a complete refund if not happy. No questions asked. But KEEP the Street Safe One tape (the best seller of them all) as our gift just for trying this offer out. You can't lose.



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Security "Souvenirs" For Sale

Al Qaeda and other assorted nut cases take note: According to WorldNetDaily.com and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, your goal of impersonating a federal airport-security official may be just a few clicks away on eBay. Uniform Patches, badges, pins and other paraphernalia with the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) insignia are readily available to online shoppers. Such items as a "mini-U.S. air marshal's badge for lapel or tie," or "collectible [sic] ID reel complete with the Transportation Security Administration logo" were offered on eBay starting at a buck.

The General Accounting Office used counterfeit law-enforcement ID obtained over the internet to breach security at the Pentagon, Justice Department, the FBI, CIA, State Department and 14 other federal agencies. According to the report, at each of the 21 sites the agents "could have carried in weapons, listening devices, explosives, or chemical or biological agents." GAO investigators also printed up fake birth certificates and driver's licenses with off-the-shelf computer software and got past U.S. border guards at four locations.

At Pittsburgh International, a man without a boarding pass entered a restricted boarding terminal by flashing an old constable's badge he had been given as a gift.

As easy as this all was, it would seem that some who are drawing a paycheck may also be impersonating "security" personnel.

We're all for free enterprise, but just because something is not against a specific law, doesn't mean it's OK to do.

Philadelphia Firm Openly Solicits Al-Qaeda Business

A sign prominently displayed in the window of a Philadelphia business reads: We would rather do business with 1,000 Al Qaeda ... Than With a Single American.

Even with our First Amendment guarantees of free speech, it's seems odd the local SWAT didn't have to be called out to control angry mobs. But, we are a nation who prizes our freedom of speech as a lynchpin of our liberty, and, after all it was just a sign. But, it's interesting to know just what sort of business would post such a sign: It was a local funeral home.

Kim The Counterfeiter

What kind of exports does a tyrannical, bankrupt socialist country have? Annual exports from North Korea comprise some \$650 million in "legitimate"







goods, most of that being weapons to assorted Third-World dictators. Nearly as much as these on-paper exports, are some \$500 million a year in exports from government-run criminal enterprises - the biggest cash producers being counterfeit money and various forms of dope. North Korea is producing some 40 tons of opium a year, plus many tons of high-quality [sic] crank, mostly for the Asian market. Queer money, mostly in the form of hard-todetect Ben Franklins, amounts to some \$10 million a year. Although the product is of passable quality, profits are limited by the fact that the North Koreans have to split with assorted criminal gangs who distribute it, now that North Korean embassies are closely watched. Kim Jong Nam, son of Absolutely Wonderful Leader Kim Jong Il, has used these phony notes in Macao casinos.

Iraq Order Of Battle On-Line

Russian Arms and Military Technologies (Rusarms.ru) has developed a free and continually updated Persian Gulf military information page, located at http://iraq.rusarms.ru . Visitors will find a catalog of known Iraqi and Coalition weapons located in the Persian Gulf area. Interesting, and worth your time.

Iragis Hunted On Southern U.S. Border

As we go to press, several news agencies are quoting CIA sources that six Iraqis thought to have chemical and biological weapons with them are being hunted in Mexico and the American southwest, after having tried to engage coyotes to get them across the border, who tipped-off authorities. A Mexican federal spokesman claimed there is no evidence of Iraqi terrorists in Mexico, but the day before local officials in Tamaulipas state had received news of an alleged search for six terrorists who were planning to cross into the States with toxic gases.

Intelligence sources speculated that potential targets may have included the Palo Verde nuclear project west of Phoenix, which supplies electricity to 4 million customers in Arizona, New Mexico, California and Texas.

Continued on page 79





WE WILL BRING YOU TO JUSTICE... OR WE WILL BRING JUSTICE TO YOU. GEORGE W. BUSING SPEAKING TO THE WO





On September 11, 2001, war came to America. Today we confront an evil army of fanatics with a resolve not seen since World War II. Fighting this enemy is a new breed of heroes - our military units, police officers, firefighters, EMT's and other dedicated public safety professionals.

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Beneath the rubble in New York and Virginia and in the charred ashes of Pennsylvania lay our brothers, sisters and friends - the most recent American victims of this monstrous evil.



For those who committed these ghastly crimes, your days are numbered. We will find you and bring you to justice or before your God. Our cause is righteous and our courage unmatched. Be warned. We're coming for you.



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The Bing

BY BILL GERTZ AND ROWAN SCARBORDUGH

Pakistani Arrested

officials said a Pakistani army major was arrested by FBI agents and Pakistani authorities on suspicion of links to al Qaeda.

Many U.S. intelligence analysts suspect the al Qaeda network has been backed secretly by sympathetic members of Pakistan's military and intelligence services.

U.S. officials confirmed that Maj. Adil Quddus was arrested in Kohat, Pakistan, in the northwest of the country, one day after the arrest of al Qaeda leader Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and two other al Qaeda members.

Rawalpindi is considered a "military city" because of the large number of military facilities there. The arrest of Maj. Quddus is an indication that authorities believe radical Islamist elements of the Pakistani military are working with al Qaeda, possibly protecting other terrorists, such as Osama bin Laden and his top deputy, Ayman al Zawahiri.

Maj. Quddus is part of a communications unit and is being investigated for his ties to Mohammed and the al Qaeda terror network.

Intelligence Failure

U.S. intelligence agencies vastly underestimated the number of Al Samoud 2 missiles that Iraq had produced, intelligence officials tell us.

Chief United Nations arms inspector Hans Blix disclosed to the U.N. Security Council in January that Iraq had produced about 120 Al Samoud 2 missiles.

The missiles are illegal for Iraq under a 1990s resolution that prohibited Baghdad from producing missiles with ranges greater than 93 miles. The Al Samoud 2 has been flight tested to ranges of more than 93 miles.

Before the number of missiles was disclosed by the Iraqis, U.S. intelligence agencies estimated that Iraq had fewer than a dozen Al Samoud 2s.

Attacking Green Berets

Increasingly, the guerrilla movement in Afghanistan is being run out of neighboring Pakistan, where many hard-core Taliban and al Qaeda fighters fled after American forces liberated Kabul.

U.S. sources tell us Taliban leaders pay young Afghans to conduct harassment missions against American special operations troops.

Some Afghans spy on Green Beret A Teams and report their movements.

Others set up makeshift artillery batteries, intent on landing a rocket in a Green Beret operating camp.

The Afghans fuse 120 mm rockets to car batteries and a Casio watch. They aim the contraption at a camp, set the timer and flee. The rockets rarely hit near their intended targets.

Shinseki Won't Blink

Gen. Eric Shinseki, Army chief of staff, is sticking by his troop estimate for a postwar Iraq in the face of senior Pentagon officials dismissing his best judgment of several hundred thousand troops as way off the mark.

"General Shinseki was asked a question to which he responded with his best military judgment," says an Army "talking points" document. "His testimony was very clear."

Itching To Fight

Army Green Berets in Colombia are eager to mount a

MANY U.S. INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS
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MEMBERS OF PAKISTAN'S MILITARY

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mission to rescue three Americans held hostage by the notorious and deadly Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

But for now, the Bush administration is letting the Colombian army plan and execute the missions, with intelligence support coming from the United States.

The problem, military sources say, is that FARC commanders are wise to intelligence methods and rarely make valuable comments in communications that can be monitored.

What Tarnak Farms?

If the presiding judge decides not to recommend a courtmartial for two Air Force pilots in the "friendly fire" bombing deaths of four Canadian soldiers, it may be in part because of the testimony of Lt. Col. Craig H. Fisher, a prosecution witness.

Col. Fisher was directing combat operations the night of the mistake from the Air Force's Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) in Saudi Arabia.

Part of the defense of Majs. Harry Schmidt and William Umbach is that no one briefed them that the Canadians were conducting live-fire training that April night when they dropped a bomb on what they thought was surface-to-air fire.

Col. Fisher testified at what the military calls an Article 32 hearing that no one in the CAOC knew the training range, Tarnak Farms, even existed.

"As far as you know, nobody in the CAOC knew about Tarnak Farms?" Col. Fisher was asked.

"That is correct," he answered.

Col. Fisher also helped the two pilots' cases on another point. Their chief argument is that they acted in self-defense. The Air Force says they violated the rules of engagement and

has charged both men with manslaughter.

Asked by Charles Gittins, Maj. Schmidt's attorney, if their actions were "unreasonable," Col. Fisher answered:

"From what I've read, that there was a defensive call, that the roles did not change, and that there was a BM-21 [missile] threat that encompassed their ranges, and that there was a perception that his lead [Maj. Umbach] was being actively engaged by this threat system, it would not be unreasonable to engage."

A military judge is expected in March or April to recommend whether the Air Force should court-martial the two men on criminal charges, handle it administratively or dismiss the case.

Chinese Correspondent

Military sources tell us they were surprised that the Pentagon's public affairs office had permitted a reporter from the official Chinese government news agency Xinhua to join U.S. military forces in covering the conflict in Iraq.

Xinhua has been identified by U.S. intelligence officials as part of the Chinese government intelligence collection and analysis system. Pentagon officials are still upset at the Chinese military's mistreatment of 23 U.S. military personnel who were imprisoned for 11 days in April 2001, after a Chinese F-8 interceptor collided over the South China Sea with an American EP-3 reconnaissance plane.

Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough are Pentagon reporters. Gertz can be reached at 202/636-3274 or by e-mail at bgertz@washingtontimes.com. Scarborough can be reached at 202/636-3208 or by e-mail at rscarborough@washingtontimes.com.



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Marine Gorps Unit Now Authorized SpecOps Unit

Better Late Than Never

BY CHRISTIAN LOWE

or nearly two decades, special forces troops have been conducting their deadly operations in the steaming jungles of South America, the arid deserts of the Middle East and the blood-stained streets of the Balkans without the direct assistance of their brethren in the Marine Corps.

Indeed, Navy SEALS, Army Special Forces operators and Air Force special-tactics teams have been executing covert ops worldwide without a similar force

from the Corps. When the U.S. Special Operations Command was established in 1986 to better coordinate snake-eater ops after the Desert One disaster, the Corps opted to stay out. Marine commanders were suspicious of the organization and were unwilling to cede control of their covert operators to the fledgling command. But

steep price. Since USSOCom was established, special-operations forces have been the recipients of its own chunk of the Pentagon's largesse, receiving billions of dollars for cuttingedge technology, aircraft and a huge training budget for a force of its size.

that decision came at a

The Marine Corps has the smallest yearly budget of all the services and has to balance the funds it gets with an array of priorities.

With its money, USSOCom can purchase aircraft such as the fearsome AC-130 Pave Spectre gunship and MC-130 Combat Talon transport, MH-53 Pave Low, MH-60 Pave Hawk and MH-6 "Little Bird" - not to mention the Navy's high-speed insertion craft and SEAL-delivery vehicles.

These systems have so far been beyond the Corps' reach. And as the Cold War ended and American administrations became less inclined to deploy large contingents of U.S. forces to police the world's hot spots, the Corps lost out on playing a leading role in U.S. operations, relegated in many cases to "supporting" roles.

1986 Folly's Redemption

Operation Enduring Freedom further convinced Marine leaders of the folly of their 1986 decision not to join USSOCom. The so-called "Superbowl of Special Operations

Forces" was a turning point for the commando world, showing the world that highly trained, intelligent, well-funded teams of 12 or 13 warriors could defeat a fierce enemy that had fought off the British and Soviet Empires

over the last two centuries. It was high time for the Corps to shed its protectionism

and join the team.

So the Corps decided earlier this year to establish an 86-man team to join USSOCom. They'll begin forming-up in June at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and then join up with SEAL teams at Coronado, Calif., for more in-depth training. By April 2004, these Leatherneck commandos will be ready to deploy wherever the war on terrorism takes them.

Despite the years of lean funding and manpower, and a institutional indifference to its teams of covert warriors, the

Corps nurtured its black-ops capability by hook or crook. Marine Reconnaissance units, Scout Snipers, Intel units, Riverine operators and Air Naval Gunfire Liaison companies quietly honed their skills throughout the '80s and 90s, maintaining a high state of readiness despite their limited resources.

In Operation Desert Storm, ANGLICO teams - who specialize in calling in air, naval gunfire or land-based artillery strikes and advising foreign forces on Marine tactics and capabilities - played a key role in the liberation of Kuwait, sneaking deep behind enemy lines to coordinate airstrikes in



(above) Safety boats circled the landing zone of the Marines jumping from the KC-130 "Hercules" as part of a 3rd Recon Battalion's training exercise. One boat was present for every two jumpers. (right) A Marine from Recon Battalion steps out of the helicopter into the ocean as a trail of Marines in the water give "thumbs-up" to show they are OK.

southern Iraq. In Afghanistan, Marine recon teams were some of the first forces on the ground when Marines seized the forward operating base at Camp Rhino near Khandahar. These highly trained warriors are perfectly suited for deep raids, long-range reconnaissance and surveillance and direct action such as ship- and oil-rig takedowns. Scout sniper teams are crucial to the security of the reopened U.S. Embassy in Kabul, they work with their fellow intelligence/counterintelligence Marines who patrol the city in plain clothes, to keep an eye on the activity throughout the city from the rooftop perch in the embassy compound. If there's any problem, these sharpshooters can take-out any target within miles with their 50 cal. sniper rifles.

So it's somewhat surprising that even though the Corps had cadres of elite troops, it never contributed any to USSOCom missions. Fortunately, however, they've got a deep well of expertise from which to draw their new dream team.

"The SOCOM force draws its foundation from units and capabilities existing in the Marine Corps today that are most special operations-like," said Lieutenant Colonel Giles Kyser, the Corps' primary planner for the force. "The intent is to provide a viable capability that is uniquely Marine quickly, and demonstrate that the Marine Corps in fact is making an institutional commitment to improving its relationship with SOCOM and making a long-term commitment towards assisting SOCOM in its responsibilities."

During the last 13 months, Marine planners and their SpecOps cohorts in the Army, Navy and Air Force put togeth-



er a program to form a specialized Marine unit, dubbed the Marine Corps SOCOM Detachment, to contribute to missions formerly reserved for Navy SEALS, Army Green Berets or Air Force Special Tactics teams.

The unit of hand-picked Marines and sailors from the Reconnaissance, intelligence and fire-support communities will begin training at their new base in Camp Pendleton, Calif., in June.

Soon after, they will transfer to Coronado Naval Base, Calif., for a 24-week special-warfare training program with Navy SEALS. Once the six-month training phase is completed, in April 2004, the Marine unit will be ready for real-world operations, during which it will be under the formal control of the Navy Commander for Special Warfare.

This new unit is the visible result of the closer relationship between the Corps and Special Operations Command that has developed since Marine Commandant General James Jones and USSOCom chief Gen. Chuck Holland signed an agreement meant to improve ties between the two organizations.

"With regard to special operations,
Operation Enduring Freedom revealed
something that was no surprise to me — the fact that the
Marine Corps' own expeditionary units have a great role to
play in the future, particularly in the global war on terrorism," said Gen. Jones at a 13 Feb. 2002, House Armed
Services Committee hearing in Washington. "I believe that
we can, with the naval platforms that we have, with very little additional cost, really become a force multiplier for special operations in the future."



Reconnaissance Marines put on their fins as they prepare to do a 1-kilometer swim. Recon Marines are required to swim 5,000-8,000 meters per day. (inset) Cpl. Brent A. Larsen (foreground) of Livonia, Mich., and LCpl Ernie J. Ernst, of Georgetown, Ky., assault the beach during a morning beach raid 2 April 2001. Both Marines were part of team 1, Center Beach Recon Element. (below) Force Recon Marines fast-rope from a CH-53E "Super Stallion," during a raid on a six-story building. While they performed their mission, distinguished onlookers, such as an Ohio state congressman and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, observed the Marines in action.

The Marines have formed the unit as a "proof of concept," officials say. It is designed to demonstrate to the members of USSOCom that the Corps can be an effective partner in fighting the covert battles that are the command's stock in trade.

The Marine SpecOps detachment will be made up of three elements: a reconnaissance element, intelligence element and headquarters element — and a six-man fire-support team. There will also be five Navy corpsmen assigned

to the unit.

The recon element will be split into four six-man teams headed by senior enlisted personnel. Additionally, the 26-man intelligence platoon will consist of a signals intel support team; a human-exploitation team; a radiorecon team and an all-source fusion team. The fusion team is there to gather intelligence from a variety of sources and disseminate tailored intel to teams at a moment's notice. This is particularly important since the Pentagon has given the go-ahead for USSOCom units to designate and launch missions without a regional CINC giving them the green light.

In response to the renewed importance of precision close-air support and the need to integrate units with coalition forces the same way Green Berets did with the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, a six-man supportingarms liaison team will also be part of

Continued on page 71



"Picture Two People, Locked In Mortal Combat, One With Both Hands Wrapped Around The Other's Neck. Now, Imagine Yourself In This Scene And Tell Me... What Would You Do?"

(Hint: Whatever Your Answer, The Odds Are... It's Wrong!"

ick him in the groin." "Strike the arms or punch the solar plexus." "Grab the hands." "Stomp on his instep"

The list is always the same.

Unfortunately... each answer put your life at risk in the face of a life-or-death assault.

Why? Because invariably when Tim Larkin asks students this question at his Target-Focus Training® bootcamps...

No One—Not Even Trained Martial Artists—Sees <u>Themselves</u> As The One Doing The Choking

They're always the one being choked.

It's human nature. We shy from victory, from domination. It's the way most of us are built.

But think about it... couldn't this have been the scenario?

You are surprised by two attackers. You've completely disabled the first and now have control of the second and are about to put him totally out of commission...

Possible? Of course. It's just that no one sees it this way.

Here's the problem: A thug comes up, places a knife to your throat and demands your wallet. Taking him at his word you give him the wallet. He then proceeds to stab you repeatedly leaving you in a pool of your own blood, astonished you've been stabbed.

What went wrong? Just this. You ASSUMED he only wanted the wallet. After all, why would anyone stab someone over a few measly bucks? <u>YOU</u> certainly wouldn't do that if you were robbing someone (by the way... when WAS the last time you robbed someone and put a knife to their throat?).

You see, that IS the problem...

You've Just <u>Transferred Your Own</u> <u>Moral Code</u> To A Sociopathic Killer... And With It, Quite Possibly, Your Life.

See, nothing bothers him. He's certainly not bound by your morals. With a total disregard for society and it's rules, he has no regret whatsoever in cramming a blade into your gut... if that's what it takes to get what he wants.

You stroll around thinking 12 years of martial arts training or that 6-week self-defense course or the latest flavor-of-the-month fighting video gives you the edge you need against someone like this.

Wake up!

You are hopelessly training techniques (then praying they work) against someone who never "trained" for you. How many criminals in federal pens spent years sweating through JKD workouts before committing their crime? How many are Jujitsu experts?

None. They excel at just one thing: doin' it. No training, no practice, no techniques. And these criminals certainly follow no 'rules'. So why squander years fooling yourself with something that only works "if everyone plays by the rules"?

These are the facts: 98% of us, caught in an unavoidable violent attack (even those with years of training), would never consider doing "whatever it takes" to survive — like gouging our attacker's eyes — even if they were the only targets available, and... even if it was the only means of saving our own life.

That's why TFT® teaches both mind and body to

act in unison, training you for the <u>real threat</u> in your life... criminal violence.

It shows you how to deal with the ultra violence of a life-or-death confrontation (understand it's very easy to ramp this down to fit a lesser situation but it's impossible to ramp up to a "killing-set" if you've never trained for it. By the way, is this you?).

Make no mistake... Larkin doesn't advocate violence. TFT® just de-mystifies it. He's often quoted...

"Violence Is Rarely The Answer. But When It Is... It's The Only Answer."

Look... others in Soldier of Fortune try to impress you with how bad they are, their accomplishments in the "hidden world" you aren't privy to, their guru status.

TFT[®] isn't about that. It's not about an individual, a personality... or a guru.

It's about a system... one focused totally on you!

Make no bones about it: Larkin's track record is impressive. He's currently training units from the top echelons of federal law enforcement and military special operations groups. It's not surprising since he comes from that world and is well known there. But since everyone in Soldier of Fortune tries to claim this you'll rarely hear him talking about it.

He's an awesome communicator, fabulous trainer, and amazingly approachable for someone with his abilities and credentials. And he's trained 100's of CEOs and others in high-risk positions around the world — all very real people.

But why is this so important?

Why is TFT® being sought out in all these other arenas?

Because it works! Because you "get it" immediately... as soon as you experience it. There's no waiting. It's usable instantly... and it stays with you forever, even if you never practice it again.

Take fear. Experience a TFT® training and part way through this gigantic light bulb explodes in your brain. Boom... you get it... you understand why there's no reason to be fearful in any type of confrontation again. Fear is simply gone... instantly... and forever (by the way it's not magic, you've got the ability inside you right now).

Here's what TFT^* is about: the key to the system lies in the fact there are two... and only two... overriding principles that determine the outcome of any physical confrontation. Combine these with three supporting methodologies that form the foundation of every fighting system on the planet and you have a complete system for handling any violent confrontation. With this information you can look at anything that's out there... including your own training... and know immediately if it's worth keeping.

"It was the most effective five days of training in hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon that I and everyone else had ever experienced." Brian (last name withheld), US Border Patrol

Larkin just got back from talking to over 600 CEO's in Europe. These folks are eating his stuff up because TFT^{\oplus} principles and methodology are as effective in the 'combative' world of business as they are in a truly lethal fight, and for the exact same reason... <u>RESULTS</u>.

What really excites Larkin is the fact that if these people can get this much from his material, imagine how much more someone like you can learn... a dedicated reader of Soldier of Fortune magazine who is really into finding and applying a system that is <u>quickly learned</u> and <u>deadly effective</u>. If all these other folks are <u>seeking him out</u>, shouldn't you be too?

Look, Larkin is swamped and realizes he can't begin to reach everyone. While he'd love to have you as a member of his organization and to take part in his live training, he realistically understands few will be able to do this. Bootcamps run \$2,000.00 while international events start at \$10,000.00. And personal training for small 2- to 4-person sessions is \$20,000.00 and more.

That's why he's created a special Guide called The Two Key Principles Used To Win Every War, Battle And Streetfight... And How You Can Exploit Their Devastating Power Today.

Not some sales letter in disguise, this is truly a way for you to take at least a step towards learning the basics of *TFT** and applying its principles today.

In the Guide, Larkin covers things like:

- The secret to success in any confrontation or fight.
 Understand this principle... and you win. Without it... you lose. It's as simple as that.
- Why it's a huge mistake to train as if you can predict your attacker's next move... even though everyone keeps trying to do it.
- Why focusing on a technique or methodology hands the sociopathic criminal an <u>overwhelming</u> advantage... each and every time.
- Why defeating an assailant has nothing to do with your size, strength, speed, sex, stamina or athleticism... and nothing whatsoever to do with years of practice or difficult movements.

"I've ordered video's from names like (withheld) and respect them and their ideas. But you have given me a logical system that I can train and do despite an artificial hip and other chronic injuries as a result of 33½ yrs of firefighting." John Carmody, Norfolk, VA

 Why you can't learn a hodgepodge collection of lethal techniques and expect to recall even one of them (let alone the one you need) in a life-ordeath struggle.

If you've spent years training techniques but still aren't sure of what might happen face-to-face with an assailant, if you can't imagine why physical skills are not critical to success in a determined sociopathic attack, if you long ago realized those silly fighter-of-the-month techniques weren't the answer to anything, then you owe it to yourself to get his Guide.

Here is how you can get one: Larkin is distributing 250 of these Guides. You may request one Free copy by calling toll-free (888) 803-0504 and leaving your name and address on his voicemail. He'll have the Guide sent to you the very next day. Since it's voicemail you can call 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Additional copies of the Guide are just \$9 plus shipping. But again, he'll send you one copy FREE.

A lot of folks will blow off this offer as just another in the endless stream of secretive, technique-based, guru-led programs. Don't make that mistake. It doesn't cost you even a cent to prove to yourself the validity of what you've just read.

You've read this far and know this makes sense. Call (888) 803-0504 and request your FREE Guide now while they're still available. © 2003 Hurley and Withington-s

BY JOHN FARNAM

FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY

War In The Middle East

In the last century, the country has paid a terrible price for failing to finish wars. Most wars don't end in unconditional surrenders. Most wars fizzle-out inconclusively (only to resume years, or decades, later), because both sides get tired of fighting and lose their resolve.

The price paid for unfinished wars is what we now see going on in North Korea and in Iraq. Unfinished wars have to be fought all over again. For 60 years U.S. troops have had to be stationed in Korea, because the war there was never finished. Now, it is rearing its ugly head again and will continue until the war (which started in 1950) is finally completed. Then-President Truman said of that war, "Our troops are not there to win anything." In so doing, he ensured their failure and defeat. If we're not there to win, we shouldn't be there at all.

Thirteen years ago, the Gulf War was also left unfin-

ished. The president and congress lost their collective nerve and stopped just short of victory. Now, we are having to do it all over again.

Lesson: Don't adopt the tactics of losers. When the stated goal of any military conflict is merely the preservation of the status quo, there is no possibility of victory. For the sake of those doing the fighting, and for the sake of those who will have to fight the same fight all over again if the issue is not resolved, the goal of all military action must be the unconditional vanquishing of the enemy. Anything less is a recipe for disaster.

Front Line Hoplophobia (From A Friend With The 101st ABN):

I have now been here in Kuwait for two weeks, and not once have any of us been allowed to insert a magazine (much less chamber a round) in any of our weapons! We have all been graciously issued a small The price paid for unfinished wars is what we now see going on in North Korea and in Iraq.
Unfinished wars have to be fought all over again.

amount of ammunition (for immediate self defense, we're told) but we're prohibited from getting it anywhere near our weapons! Even senior officers are not allowed to have ammunition in their weapons. I use rubber bands to attach a magazine to my rifle. At least it is with the weapon and will be available quickly if needed. Of course, even that practice is frowned upon, but I do my best to make sure no one notices.

Sand blowing into empty magazine wells is also a big issue. We're told to keep the dust cover closed, but not to put a magazine in the weapon, even an empty one. It makes no sense, of course, but I, for one, am not willing to tape my magazine well shut.

Comment: If the training these guys have received is so great, why are they not allowed to be armed as front-line soldiers should be? Do we expect to be able to make an appoint-

ment for an emergency?

In spite of this universal "empty gun" policy, there have still been a number of injuries caused by negligent discharges in Army units, as well as with the Marines. So, with all these empty guns, accidents are still happening! One can only wonder if there would be any more accidents than there are already if all soldiers were trained, and expected, to carry and maintain loaded weapons all the time, and did so as a routine.

Not all bad ideas come from the UN!

Editor's comment: Treating the members of a premier fighting force like a poor-men's Barney Fife (even he was allowed to carry "one bullet") makes no more sense than carrying dust-sensitive weapons around in environs such as Kuwait, with no purpose. Either you are under arms or you are not. If you are

under arms, you should have ammo; if you are not under arms the weapon should be in the rack. What is the program: Tinker Bell will flit from troop to troop distributing loaded magazines [and cleaning rods] if the balloon goes up? One could take statistical note of the relative lack of ADs from police who carry loaded weapons every day. And some in more enlightened departments, a mandated 24/7. For policies in less-enlightened departments, see below:

Comments On Police ADS From A Friend And Well-Known Trainer:

From my perspective, it is good that this department did not overreact, by instituting "clearing barrels," "gun-free areas," etc. Many state police academies are now "weapons free zones" because of the concern over ADs. One facility (where I do training) now mandates that no firearms are permitted in any building, all

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because one cop had an AD in the bathroom. It only happened once.

The fact is, people are human, and when we have large numbers of armed individuals, the price we pay is that accidents happen. Through training, we minimize them, but they can never be eliminated completely. We have vehicle accidents too, but we don't ban vehicles immediately after the first one. We consider them "lessons

"Gun-free"
zones are
actually "criminal
empowerment"
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are going to pay
a dreadful price
if we allow them
to become
a trend.

learned" and then press forward.

In the face of elevated terrorist threats, any concentration of cops who are known to have been disarmed is an enormously desirable target. Such attacks have already happened with unarmed Marines in overseas facilities.

"Gun-free" zones are actually "criminal empowerment" zones, and we are going to pay a dreadful price if we allow them to become a trend.

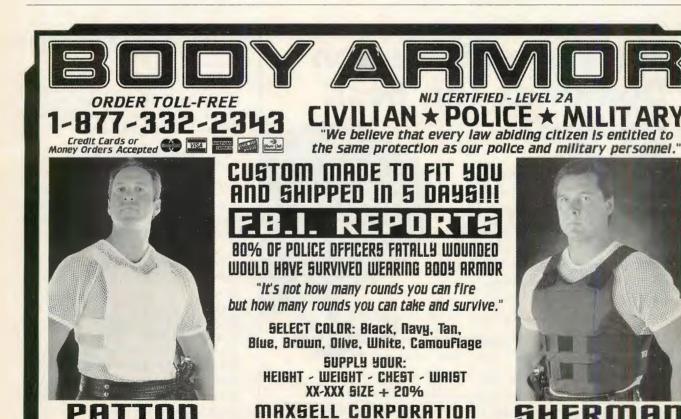
A Glock Story (From Friend In Washington Who, Like Me, Carries A G32 [.357 SIG]):

Per your suggestion, I called Glock shortly after our class. They asked for the gun to be sent to them and for a history. I sent them the gun and all the details of the broken recoil spring and other parts. Glock's reply was frank. They indicated that I was way out on the end of the bell curve for the predicted useful life of the

pistol, 20,000 rounds. They asked to keep the pistol for a detailed engineering evaluation.

This is what they sent me in return (at no cost to me):

- —A brand new G32.
- —A .40 S&W barrel that essentially transforms the gun (at my option) into a G23.
 - —Free admission to the Glock Armorer's Course



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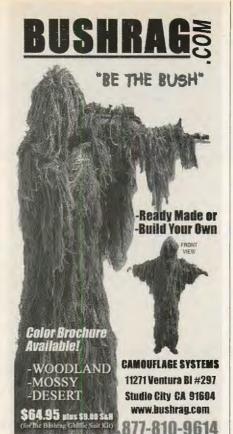
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As always, Glock took care of it.

However, I have reluctantly decided to abandon the .357 SIG cartridge in favor of the 40S&W (Cor-Bon PowerBall). This round (135 grain at 1,300 f/s) is similar in ballistics to the .357 SIG, but I will be able to practice with less destructive effect (on the gun) and less expensive practice ammo.

Comment: The 357SIG is indeed an exciting development in defensive pistol ballistics. I really like the cartridge and its ballistics and still carry my G32 with Cor-Bon 115gr HP ammunition. Flirting with 1,600 f/s, a more effective personal defensive pistol cartridge would be difficult to imagine.

But, there is a price to be paid. Slide velocities are such that the life of the gun is going to be greatly reduced from that of the same gun in 9mm or even 405&W. The useful life of a G19 is essentially unlimited. That of a G23 is at least 25,000 rounds, probably more. The same gun in .357 SIG (G32) may be imited to 15,000. It's just the ballistic facts of life.

I have a SIG 239 in .357 SIG that I'm also testing. No problems so far.

Glock's customer service is, as always, wonderful. They take excellent care of their customers, and they deserve a lot of credit for that.

From a Friend Returning From Glock Armorer's School:

The Glock NY2 (12-pound) trigger is ridiculous and really impairs good shooting. The standard NY trigger is recommended. The NY2 is not.

In order to pacify grass-eaters in Maryland, Glock is redesigning extractors so that they protrude noticeably when there is a round in the chamber, forming, in effect, a "loaded-chamber indicator." All Glocks will now come this way, not just those sold in Maryland. This may have significant impact on holster design. New Glocks may not fit well in old holsters. Happily, this new, maladroit extractor can be replaced with a conventional one.

I certainly feel much safer now, how about you?

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For more information about Wiggy's Super Lite sleeping bags, call toll-free today or see us on the world wide web.

Cold Steel In Africa

The most popular serious knives in Africa today are, as you might expect, those made by my friend Lynn Thompson at Cold Steel. In terms of functional design, strength, and sharpness, they are second to none.

Unfortunately, the current exchange rate makes them prohibitively expensive for many Africans. All my friends have Cold Steel knives and are extremely grateful that they do.

By contrast, most locally made knives are cheap junk, but they are found everywhere and are still extremely dangerous in the hands of provincial evildoers. There are thousands of knife homicides every year, plus tens of thousands of disabling and disfiguring injuries. Subsequent infection kills many more.

Most never find their way to statistics that you will ever see. The preferred method of attack is multiple downward (icepick) stabs into the shoulder (from the front or rear), the target being the subclavian artery. It is effective and difficult to see coming.

As one might expect, the local knife culture is experienced and active. One of my knife instructors from the local AMOK School in Capetown made a good point during one of our recent sessions there:

When there is a large amount of blunt trauma associated with a cut, the body has the opportunity to restrict the flow of blood to the area and thus limit bleeding. By contrast, when there is little trauma associated with a cut, bleeding is always maximized. The implication is clear: When using a knife in self defense, the sharper the better.

Sharp knives will always produce more and more rapid bleeding than will dull ones. As you probably know, Cold Steel knives come to us "dead sharp." I don't know how they get them so sharp, but their ability to cause catastrophic hemorrhage is unexcelled.

The lesson here is: Don't use your serious knife for utility-cutting.

It will rapidly become dull and then serve you poorly when you really need it. Keep your fighting knives dead sharp. For utility cutting, use a utility knife that is not intended for serious purposes.

"One with my blade, alive in my hand Pure of heart and firm in my stand It's not in the blade; It's played in the mind."



Afghan Mistakes

Exclusive SOF Interview With General Rahmatullah Safi

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

iddle-East experts warn that the U.S administration, with its obsession to depose Saddam Hussein, is treading down a treacherous path that could explode the already volcanic Middle East into a number of uncontainable, bloody, multi-faceted civil wars.

The signs are alarmingly clear.

Already the U.S.-backed Iraqi opposition leaders are adamantly opposing the proposed U.S. military occupation in Iraq, demanding that they assume control of the government shortly after Saddam Hussein is deposed.

In addition, the Northern Iraqi Kurdish leaders, who believe that the United States sold them out in the tough bargaining with Turkey to station U.S troops to launch an offen-

SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown (right) and General Rahmatullah Safi during their candid London face-to-face. In 1989, Safi escorted Brown and associates across Afghanistan where they avoided Soviet napalm. Brown, good-naturedly, still harbors "resentment" that his long-time friend refused to allow him a shot at a Soviet jet with an American Stinger.



sive into Iraq, are asking for guarantees that no Turkish troops will intrude on their territory in the event of war.

The Iraqis and Kurds dredge up the memory of how the United States abandoned them after the Gulf War when Bush "the elder" incited them to revolt, letting Saddam's helicopter gunships decimate them. The Kurds remember their betrayals by the United States in 1974 when the United States sold them out to the Shah, and again in 1995. Tens of thousands were killed.

All are quite aware that the United States originally helped arm, support and empower Saddam Hussein.

Turkey, which has refused to station U.S. troops thus far because of long-term repercussions, has reportedly invaded northern Iraq, since the Turks perceive their southern Kurdoccupied borders are threatened.

Some of the Iraqi opposition, backed by Iran, and various Kurdish factions, are positioning themselves for power, planning to partition Iraq into separate sovereign states —

the Kurds in the North, the Sunni in the center, and the Shi'ites in the South.

Afghan General Rahmatullah Safi, graduate of British SAS and Russian Spetznaz schools, and a long-time friend of SOF, who had been befriended by the United States, then abandoned "half-way" once they achieved their goal, is one who predicts civil chaos in Iraq. His warnings are based on what he said is a pattern of shortsighted, destructive U.S. foreign policy. Iraq is facing the hell Afghanistan is living through now, with the administration's plan to "blow up this and that." As in Afghanistan, the civilian deaths and refugee flows are predicted to be in the hundreds of thousands.

Countries targeted by U.S. bombing, he said, were victims of an "arrogant, selfish" U.S. policy that is "quick to destroy."

"We suffered losses of one and a half million. How can you leave such a nation you supported through all that bloodshed and just go without a good-bye?"

One Prophet in the Wilderness — Afghan General Safi

The General charged on foot through the cold, blustery London winter in his characteristic way to meet us near the hotel in Piccadilly Circus. The burly, still powerful, General blasted the U.S. with his deep, commanding voice coarsened by years of smoking, eager to vent years of pent up frustration.

"How in the twenty-first century can one be proud of how to bomb, how to kill, how to destroy? I don't think that is called super-power. No matter how much they bomb, they are not satisfied. Every week they show films of WWII and the elderly are crying for the things that Hitler did. What makes the difference between Hitler and the Americans?

You go to Asia and hear "Down with America." You go to Africa and hear "Down with America." You go to Europe and hear "Down with America." What is wrong?

"You ask me why I live in London. Why not America? I don't like the ruling machine of the U.S. Americans never take you to the end of the journey. They play their game, then they don't bother about you and I don't trust them. If they need you, they are Romeo and Juliet. Once they don't, they

become a mud-fish in water and you cannot find them.

It doesn't have to be that way, he said. "The sun rose and set on the British Empire and today still those former colonies have good relations and ties with the Commonwealth.

"Americans Fought, Making Sacrifices For The Freedom Of Our Land."

"Before the Jihad started against the Russians the whole world was against American imperialism," he explained. "To the Third World, the Soviet Union seemed progressive, befriending and helping the poor even in the Middle East. But when the Russians brought their puppet government to Afghanistan, we started fighting and America provided the helping hand. Americans fought, making sacrifices for the freedom of our land.

"That was a golden opportunity for the tide to turn. 'Down with Russia! Down with the communist! Down with the Soviet Empire,' we would say. And. 'God bless America'.

"But what happened when the Soviets withdrew and the communist

"But the Taliban, al-Qaeda and other fundamentalists terrorists were created by the U.S., the Soviet authority and the Pakistani intelligence, ISI. ..."

Dr. Martin Brass

government collapsed? Americans turned their back and forgot us."

Creation Of The Jihad Machine

"When we Afghanis started fighting the Russians, I would council the

American consulate in Islamabad and embassy in Peshawar.

"I was the first Afghani to visit America by official invitation and was trusted by the State Department. Any American going to Afghanistan consulted with General Safi and took protection from General Safi. Peter Thompson, the ambassador for the Mujahudeen of Afghanistan, became my friend. When he came to Pakistan, he would telephone and ask for protection from my personal bodyguard. Most of the time he was in my place meeting the Afghan commanders and leaders.

"The American political lobby for Afghanistan, led by Senator Humphrey, and military aid, led by Congressman Charles Wilson, helped build up the jihad machine in Afghanistan through the Committee For Free Afghanistan."

Digging The Caves In "No Man's land"

After the Soviets withdrew, Safi complained to the Americans, "Why are the fundamentalist Wahabis tunneling in the Afghanistan mountains to make caves for terrorist training? Nobody listened about the caves they built. The caves they build in the no man's land, in the Kyber Pass and Sunshoit Mountain, and Tora Boras by the many Arabs and by Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). Machinery was working day and night. I warned George Bush's administration that as much as you run away, that much Afghanistan will become No Man's Land. When the great lady Barbara Bush invited me to their house in Washington in front of all those



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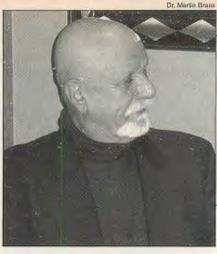
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"... after they withdrew, Mr. Karzai became the puppet of the Americans. Unfortunately, today the Afghan administration is being run by criminals who are on the list of war criminals in the U.N."

guests I complained of the extremists and everyone shook their head in agreement, 'Yes, Safi, yes, Safi, you are right.' But nobody did anything.

"I pled with the Congress, the Pentagon, every department of the U.S. government and I said, 'for God's sake, don't support the fundamentalists. Don't bring their disease to Afghanistan. We are not short of fighters.' But 75% of U.S. aid went to the fundamentalist extremists.

"Col. Robert Brown and SOF people and I worked as a team trying to stop but nobody listened.

"The last time I went to the U.S., I begged, 'for God's sake do not ignore us. Try to bring a democratically elected government in Afghanistan.' Nobody was willing to see me."

Osama! Osama! Osama! From "Chicken To Mythical Power"

"The U.S. created the image of Osama bin Laden like that of Jesus Christ. Osama! Osama! Osama! Today the whole world, because of that bastard, became hell. Everywhere there are problems. Everywhere you go you face difficulties because of this bastard with this dirty organization.

"But the Taliban, al-Qaeda and other fundamentalists terrorists were created by the U.S., the Soviet authority and the Pakistani intelligence, ISI. They came not by parachute to Afghanistan. They came through Pakistan. The long hand of ISI built up the training camps.

"At the time of the Jihad, Osama was a little child. He was a chicken. No one mentioned his name. The great man was Dr. Abdullah Isam, head of the Rabani committee of the Ighwanee who was assassinated in Peshawar."

The General took out a pen and paper and charted the origins of Islam in Afghanistan.

"Islam has three teaching bases that

were built up during the British Empire," he said. "The Egyptian branch produces Ighwan il Muslimeen, or Muslim brotherhood, or political Muslims. You may find fruit of the Muslim brotherhood in India, in Tunisia, in Morocco: anywhere in Europe, but the tree is in Egypt.

"The second element, Wahabiism, originated in Saudi Arabia. Abu il Wahab Najdee was the founder. You can find the fruit of Wahabi in any Muslim country, but the tree is in Saudi Arabia.

"Then there is conservative Muslim, which is dark and is implementing the law of 1,400 years back. It is based in India and called *Dua Ban*. In Afghanistan before the war against the Russians the Ichhwanee were called the brother of the devil and the Wahabee were called non-Muslims. We Afghan are Muslim — but we are Afghans.

"When Islam first came from the northwest of Afghanistan it brought education to the non-educated land of Afghanistan.

"But after the communist invasion when Islam came from Egypt through Pakistan we started bloodshed, killing each other, dividing into followers of Wahabis and Ighwanee.

"These are mad men who are blaming the Muslims and misinterpreting Islam. Islam is not the objective for them. It is the instrument to be used."

Saved From "Criminal" Fundamentalists By Primitive Taliban

"I was Mujahad that fought 15 years against the Communist-backed administration ruling Afghanistan then. It is four and a half years since Professor Rabani's administration was driven out of Kabul by the Taliban. For the first few months I was his advisor, I served as deputy defense minister and hoped that we would settle down and end the blood-

Continued on page 73

"What Do You Mean You Haven't Subscribed Yet?"

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TERRORISM

SITREP

BY DR. MARTIN BRASE

WORLD WIDE TERRORIST ALERI

FOR AMERICANS: RED ALERT highest terror threat level, after Iraqi War launched. Nerve gas, anthrax or nuclear bomb predicted as first major attack in U.S.

Al-Qaeda unleashes female suicide bombers, poised for attack in U.S. that "will knock the 11 September attacks into oblivion" according to threat made in London-based Arab newspaper A-Sharq Al Awsat. Umm (mother of) Usama, self-declared leader of female terrorists: "My duty is to supervise the training of women tighters who belong to Al Daeda and the Taliban," WorldNet Daily reports. Female wilcide bomber Wafa Idris killed one and wounded 100 in Jerusalem.

"A gigantic fire of lerrorism revenge attacks because of Iraq war probable." said U.S. ally Egypt's president Muharak. "The dead from the war against Iraq...will be fertilizer from which the next generation of terrorists will come," quotes AP. "Worldwide wave of terrorism to follow up Iraqi war." predicts U.S. ally Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

UNITED STATES AL QAEDA POSES THREAT inside U.S. through bin Laden's lieutenants, warned Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Saudi Arabian arrested in Idaho for channeling funds to Islamic terrorist group. His message: "Mujahid must kill himself if he knows that this will lead to killing a great number of the enemies and that he will not be able to kill them without killing himself first or demolishing a center vital to the enemy or its military force." New York Wahabi Imam "helped run N.Y.'s growing Islamic prison program, recruiting and training dozens, including Americans who embrace Islam in prison," says Wall Street Journal. Gas masks provided for Pentagon workers. Exaggerated convictions: Fed prosecutors overestimate convictions of terrorists (288) by more than double.

PHILIPPINES DEPLOYED: 1,750
U.S. troops to provide counter-terrorism training to locals with battle
against 12,000 Abu Sayyaf (only
several hundred) and Moro Islamic
Liberation Front rebels; 750
Special Operations troops head for
Jolo Island in the Sulu archipelago;
1,000 from the 31st Marine
Expeditionary Unit to provide
emergency backup and air support.
Training camps targeted. Deadliest
attack in three years at Davao airport, kills 21, wounds 150.

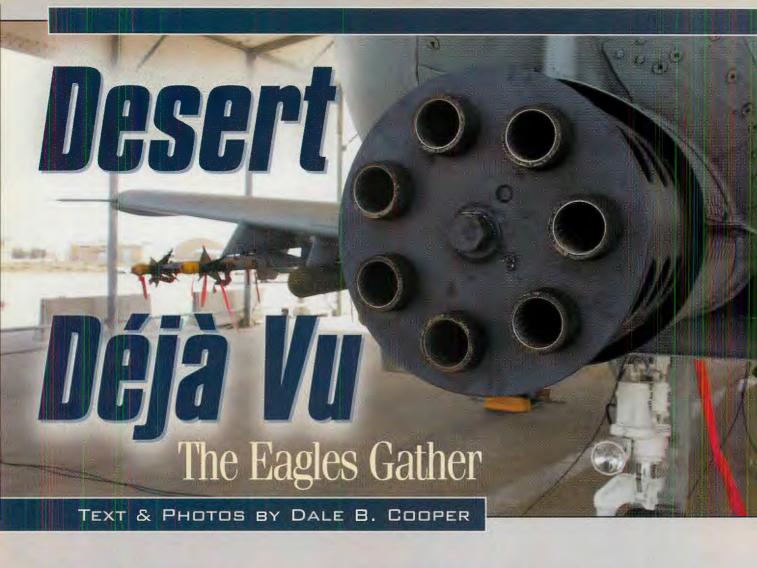
KOREA HIGH ALERT; U.S. soldiers "sleeping in their boots." Troops fear President Kim will act while U.S. distracted in Iraq. North Korea tests two anti-ship missiles. Attempted hijacking: MiG warplanes tried to take U.S. reconnaissance plane and 15-member crew hostage.

COLOMBIA WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN; three Kidnapped Americans still held as "prisoners of war," U.S. troops fighting rebels in search for hostages. Nightclub blast that killed 35, orchestrated by FARC with help of IRA and Spain's rebel Basques. Fears that Colombia will turn into South-American Afghanistan.

ARGENTINA EXTRADITION of senior Iranian intelligence officials, for taking part in bombing of Jewish charities.

U.S. troops threatened. Kurds flee to mountains to escape feared retaliatory chemical attacks. Thousands were gassed in 1988 in crossfire when Iran overran village of Hallaba. Iraqi speedboats in Persian Gulf may attempt carrying explosives, to attack U.S. fleet. ERMANY CONVICTED; Mounir El Motassadeq receives 15-year sentence, AFGHANISTAN "ARCHITECT OF THE for helping Hamburg terror cell plan 9-11 TALIBAN" U.S. troops drop thousands of leaflets in continued hunt for Osama bin trained at al-Qaeda camp Laden, believed to be in Afghanistan. Osama has Muhammad Omar portrayed as a dog by a leash: "Who is the real architect of the Taliban?" Some 11,500 Allied troops prepare for retaliatory attacks while U.S. distracted in Iraq. CANADA PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD funnels thousands of dollars to terrorists, engaged in murder, extortion and use of false visas. Simultaneous attacks by U.S. launched, concurrent with attack against Iraq, to confirm both are fight against terrorism. OSAMA'S SON Saad bin Laden, oldest of 23 childre father's right-hand man, reportedly seen. Deported: 500 suspected al-Qaeda members. Refuge in Iran: Intelligence tracing cell phones, HANGE OBJECTS TO IRAQ WAR believe 100 al-Qaeda in Iran To those who think that the scourge of terrorism will be eradicated through what is done in Iraq, we say that they run the risk of failing in their objective." MOROCCO DEATH PENALTY SMALL-ARSMS AND sought for three alleged al-PLASTIC explosives trafficking feared to Qaeda members accused of be part of plan to spark terrorist strikes in plot to attack U.S., British retaliation for Iraq War. Americans confined to quarters. Westerners evacuated. ships in Strait of Gibraltar. On trial: 90 Saudis for alleged links to al-CAPTURED: Qaeda. Assassinated: British defense conterrorist/playboy tractor, by suspected Yemeni. Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, alleged mastermind of 9-11 and coordinator of folled plans KUWAIT KILLER LAND MINES; U.S. Troops to assassinate Pope John face 10 million land mines and unexploded Paul II and hijack 11 U.S. airliners in 1995. "Forceful ordnance (UXOs) that line Iraq borders; 1,700 Kuwaiti civilians killed and 2,300 injured since interrogation" of Khalid Gulf War; 177 of 1,364 U.S. casualties in Gulf leads to capture of al-War caused by Iraqi and "unknown" mines and Qaeda chief al Jaziri. At UXOs. U.S. troops deployed 117,634 land mines in Iraq and Kuwait in 1991. Chemical or rge: Riduan Isamuddin ambali) chief of Jemaah biological attack feared against Coalition slamiyah, and Khalifa, troops. Task force of several hundred U.S Osama's brother-in-law. Czech, Slovak, Romanian and German NBC specialists stationed to treat victims, decontaminate personnel, equipment. Arrested: three Kuwaitis planning attacks on U.S. forces.

RAU BURNING AND BEHEADING of captured



an undisclosed airbase in the desert, as we go to press: "Hootie," an A-10 driver from the 172nd Air National Guard Wing, in Battle Creek, Michigan, has been here many times. So has "Niles," an F-16 pilot from Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The wind-worn plywood door to the operations tent is plastered with decals from various units that have done their time in the desert, and are doing it again. Units like the

"Panthers" from the 494th Fighter Squadron, the "Chiefs" from the 335th Fighter Squadron, and the "Werewolves" from the 69th Fighter Squadron. At one time during the past 12 years since the "unofficial" end of hostilities with Iraq, active, reserve and air national guard squadrons have deployed to this desolate base to help enforce the United Nations-mandated, no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Fighter pilots like "Hootie" and "Niles" are still supporting Operation Southern Watch, but they are also being prepped for another war with Iraq.

They're part of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group

that will provide close-air support for U.S. Army units that invade southern Iraq.

"Hootie" had to put his application for a job with the commercial airlines on-hold while he flies his "Warthog" in support of OSW. While some of his buds feel they are already at war with Iraq, "Hootie" says they'll know when they're really at war. He believes the occasional surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery that are fired at them every day or

so in the skies above Iraq is nothing compared to what the Iraqis will fire at them if a U.S-led coalition of "the willing" punch holes in the sand berm that separates Iraq from Kuwait, its neighbor to the south, and heads up the Euphrates toward Baghdad. "Niles" feels the same way. He says the use of the term "war" to describe what has been happening for years in the no-fly zones both south and north of Baghdad is kind of nebulous.

"We are flying in a country that considers us hostile, and on different occasions is willing to take shots at us," said "Niles," who was also shot at during Operation Allied Force in Serbia.



(top) Quite a snout on an A-10 "Warthog." A 30mm eight-barrelled cannon can make swiss cheese of enemy armored vehicles with its uranium-depleted armor-piercing ammunition. (above) Four 500-pound bombs under belly of Thunderbolt II at a forward air base in the Persian Gulf. These aircraft, and others, will provide close-air support for U.S. Army units inside Iraq.

While some of the younger guys may not feel they are at war with Iraq, yet, one of the older and wiser airmen at this base believes they are at war, and they better be careful.

"Our crews are getting shot at every day," said Air Force Colonel Cesar Rodriquez. The commander of the 332nd EOG says if their mind set is "they are not at war, they're not flying." Rodriquez, who shot down two Iraqi MiG-21s during the Gulf War and a Serbian MiG-29 during Operation Allied Force to become the Air Force's top MiG killer, says he won't hesitate to ground an airman who doesn't feel he's at war yet.

"The technology to the north of us is not as high as some might think, but as we in the aviation business know, the GOLDEN B-B is alive and well," said "Rico," an F-15 driver who now drives a desk, and wishes he could strap on his Eagle and go soaring once again over Iraq. "And the last thing you want to be doing is thinking is that GOLDEN B-B doesn't have your name on it," said Rodriquez.

Medium- Versus Low-Altitude

Viper pilots like "Niles" feel safer flying at medium altitudes, unlike Hog drivers like "Hootie" who sometimes have to get down in the dirt. The "HAWG" as it's affectionately called by the pilots who fly the A-10 Thunderbolt is a war wagon. Sticking out of its nose is the "Big Gun," an eight-barrelled 30mm cannon that fires more than 1,000 rounds of uranium-depleted ammo.

A-10s chewed up Iraqi armored vehicles during the Gulf war, turning them into swiss cheese. The Thunderbolts can also carry four 500-lb. bombs under their bellies and a variety of missiles on wing stations, including Mavericks that can turn at T-72 tank into a barbecue pit.

The F-16 has a multi-barreled 20mm cannon that carries about 400 rounds internally. But compared to the heat a HAWG packs, it's like Dirty Harry carrying a .22 caliber pistol compared to the .44 Magnum, Inspector Harry Callahan's weapon of choice.

"Nile" reminded SOF that his platform is capable of doing things that the A-10s can do, and, besides, F-16s can go to burners and speed out of danger going supersonic while the HAWGS are being sieved by ground-fire. Don't discount its survivability though. More than one A-10 returned to base during the Gulf war with one engine and parts of the wing and stabilizers shredded by Iraqi bullets. In many respects, the Thunderbolt II is like a Timex watch. "It takes a beating and keeps on ticking."

Déjà Vu

Because of the sensitivity of the host country, I am not allowed to divulge the location of this airbase in the Persian Gulf region. But like "Hootie" and his friend, "Niles," I also have been here before. I stepped onto this base five years ago when it looked like the United States was going to attack Iraq for non-compliance with United Nations resolutions to identify and destroy its weapons of mass destruction. Now five years later, I am back again. But it's not the same base I visited in the spring of 1998. The base has quadrupled in size.

"The tentage and bunkers you see in front of us weren't here 35 days ago," said Marine Major Thomas Johnson, a spokesman for the Third Marine Air Wing which has parked dozens of its strike aircraft between huge slabs of concrete. Johnson says the slabs are slanted so as to prevent suicide bombers from destroying any more than two aircraft in an attack.

Within running distance of the flight line there is also protection for ground crews. Sand-bagged bunkers are designed to protect personnel from fragments in the event of a missile

(below) Travis up front and Mike in the backseat of their F/A-18D Hornet before taking off on a close-air-support training mission, a dress rehearsal for things to come when the 1st Marine Division invades Iraq.



attack from Iraq. But Iraqi attempts to move surface-to-surface missiles within striking distance have failed. Aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone have spotted them and destroyed them.

As solid as they look, the bunkers are not designed to withstand a direct hit, nor are they are designed to protect forces from chemical or biological attack. Looking into a bunker that was well stocked with water and MREs was like looking down a double-barreled shotgun; two tubes of precast concrete covered with sandbags and blast-protected entrances at both ends. When base personnel aren't on the flight line, they're on the sandbag line, reinforcing their bunkers.

The day I visited the base, a dozen Marines from VMFA-251 were building upper-body strength by throwing 25 pound bags of sand to each other and stacking them in an interlocking pattern atop a bunker. I visited the "Thunderbolts" on the U.S.S. George Washington five years ago in the northern Arabian Sea before coming ashore with Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Force for some "live fire" exercises in the desert north of here.

The 26MEU is also back again as is the 1st Marine Division that led the way through the Iraqi-laid minefields in southern Kuwait, and drove the Iraqi Army from Kuwait City.

The Biggest Airbase In The Persian Gulf

This base was built to accommodate roughly 1,700 personnel, mostly Air Force. But it is now home to more than 8,000 Air Force, Marine and British forces.

It's the biggest construction project for the Navy SeaBees since the Vietnam war. Hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of concrete have been used to construct taxiways and aprons on which are parked dozens and dozens of combat aircraft under shady shelters.

The Air Force shares this base with the III MAW. The Marines have several squadrons of F/A-18s and AV-8B Harriers to provide close-air support for their buddies.

Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ed Hackett, director of safety and standardization for III MAW, says some of the aircraft he flies on OSW missions over southern Iraq saw action during the Gulf War.

Hackett spoke to SOF outside the wing intelligence tent prior to heading to life support to get into his G-suit and survival vest for a four-ship close-air support training mission.

"We're here to protect our family," said Hackett. He not



"Hootie," an A-10 National Guard pilot from Michigan, and "Niles," an F-16 pilot from New Mexico, are experiencing a sense of déjà vu. Hootie flew 36 missions during Desert Storm; Niles saw action during Allied Force.



Colonel Cesar Rodriquez, commander of the 332nd Operations Group at a forward airbase in the Persian Gulf that will provide close air support to U.S. Army units in Iraq.

only knows the names of the air-liaison officers assigned to every Marine battalion, but knows them by first name. That's why he refers to them as "family."

East Coast Marine aviation F/A-18 Hornet squadrons like VMFA (AW) 533 and VFMA-251 from Beaufort, South Carolina, are augmenting West Coast units in the wing such as VMFA-232 and two all-weather (AW) squadrons, 121 and 225 from Miramar, California.

As "Travis" and his backseater, "Shades," walked around their F/A-18D, I couldn't help but notice some hardened aircraft shelters that the U.S. destroyed during the Gulf War. The host nation is now suing the French engineering company that constructed the "bomb-proof" shelters. The French claim they were destroyed by the enemy, but the host nation points out that the United States is a friend, not an enemy.

Walking along the ramp where Harrier Jump jets were armed and ready to go, I couldn't help but notice the name of Major Pappy Boyington stenciled on the side of the cockpit below the canopy. The crew chief and a plane-handler explained to SOF that it was the custom in the Marine Corps to dedicate their aircraft to flying legends like Boyington who led the infamous "Black Sheep" squadron during WWII in the South Pacific.

Preparing For The Worst; Praying For The Best

The U.S. Army and Marines have been issued the best gas masks and protective chem-warfare gear money can buy. Thousands of soldiers and Marines, including civilians like me, have received extensive training in the proper use of that equipment that we will carry on our bodies at all times.

David Butler, a British expert in weapons of mass destruction for Bruhn New Tech Ltd., has been in the Persian Gulf instructing ABC and other news-gathering organizations in the proper use of their equipment.

"It doesn't do them a bit of good," said Butler, "to buy the best gear money can buy, and not know how to use it properly."

Butler says the best advice he can offer is to keep the wind at your back if at all possible.

"If you do get hit with a chemical agent, it will blow away from your face if the wind is blowing at your back, and allow you to escape the contaminated area," said Butler.

That may be easier said than done in the desert where the wind can blow from all points on the compass in a matter of seconds.

A Gathering Of Eagles

In addition to strike aircraft that will provide close-air support for ground forces inside Iraq, there is also a large effort being made to ensure that any pilots that are shot down over Iraq are rescued.

Everyone in the military is painfully aware what happened in the skies over Iraq on the opening night of the Gulf war in 1991 when Navy Lieutenant Commander Scott Speicher's F/A-18 Hornet was hit and disappeared in a fireball.

Last year, an Iraqi Lieutenant General, who defected in the mid-1980s to escape the "Butcher of Baghdad," told SOF in an exclusive interview that Speicher had been spotted by an Iraqi Lieutenant Colonel who was sympathetic to the opposition outside Iraq [see "Ready To Revolt," October '02 and "Dead Or Alive?," July '02.]

Fawzi al-Shamiri told *SOF* that the army officer had seen Speicher "ALIVE" in an underground prison in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, about 100 miles north of Baghdad in November 2001. Reports about Speicher surviving the shootdown have persisted ever since, and has moved the Pentagon to reclassify him as "Missing In Action."

One of the para-rescuemen who rescued Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dale Zelko when his F-117 Stealth fighter was shot down on 27 March 1999 during Operation Allied

One of many pre-cast reinforced concrete bunkers for Marine and Air Force and Allied personnel at a forward airbase in the Persian Gulf, the biggest U.S. base in the region.



Leatherneck Sgt. Fred Ohler, from New Orleans, gives "free buzz" haircut to fellow intel analyst in III MAW, LCpl Thomas Fyffe.

Force over Belgrade is at this desert base. Like others in the "Jolly Green" community, they are determined not to have another Speicher case on their hands.

"Rico" Rodriquez, who flew during Allied Force, says his folks are well-prepared to rescue any flier, U.S. or Coalition, that gets hit over Iraq and ejects. But a survival expert assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group says fliers face the third most dangerous environment known to man.

The sergeant said the only place worse to bail out of a crippled aircraft is in Alaskan waters or on Alaskan territory in the dead of winter. But he told *SOF* the desert of Iraq can be just as dangerous.

"After five days without water, you may as well take off your clothes and go for a stroll in the sand," said the sergeant, "because you're dead meat."

As this report is completed, it is windy, chilly and overcast in the Persian Gulf just like it was 12 years ago when another U.S.-led coalition crossed into Kuwait and drove Saddam Hussein's army out.

There's only one difference this time: The United States isn't going to stop along Highway 8. It's going all the way to Baghdad.

Dale B. Cooper is a longtime contributor to SOF. 🕱



U.S. Army Battles "Rogue's Gallery"

Firefight Crackles On Inside Afghanistan

BY CHRISTIAN LOWE

the fiercest combat since Operation Anaconda last spring, Army forces fought pitched battles late in January against what the Pentagon called "rogue guerrillas" in Afghanistan's eastern mountains.

The fighting was sparked by a house-clearing operation near the town of Spin Boldak on 27 Jan., when Special Forces soldiers and their Afghan allies came under fire from a village compound. The special operators returned fire killing one, wounding one and capturing another, an Army spokesman said in Bagram.

After questioning their captive, the commandos learned that a large force of guerrillas was holed-up in the caves and redoubts of the Adi Ghar mountains near the Pakistan border. The 80 guerrilla holdouts are believed to have ties to the Afghan warlord Gulbaddin Hekmatyar who was blamed for a recent bombing of a passenger bus on the Rambasi bridge 6 miles south of Khandahar on 31 Jan., a car-bomb strike in Kabul and an assassination attempt on Afghan President Hamid Karzai in September '02. The Pentagon believes Hekmatyar, formerly a prime minister of the pre-Taliban government, may now be allied to al-Qaeda, officials say.

Army Apache gunships went to investigate the intelligence on 28 Jan. and came under intense fire from the rebels. Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne formed a quick-reaction force and were sent to the area to mop up the resistance. They found tenacious rebel forces hidden in caves and called for heavy air support.

That night, B-1 Lancer and B-52 Stratofortress bombers and F-16 Falcon attack planes dropped dozens of 500- and 2,000-pound bombs and raked the mountain sides with fire from AC-130 Spectre gunships.

For the next several days nearly 350 U.S. troops had swept the area engaging in frequent gunbattles with the rebels. Pentagon officials report 18 killed and two of Hekmatyar's men captured, with no Coalition losses.

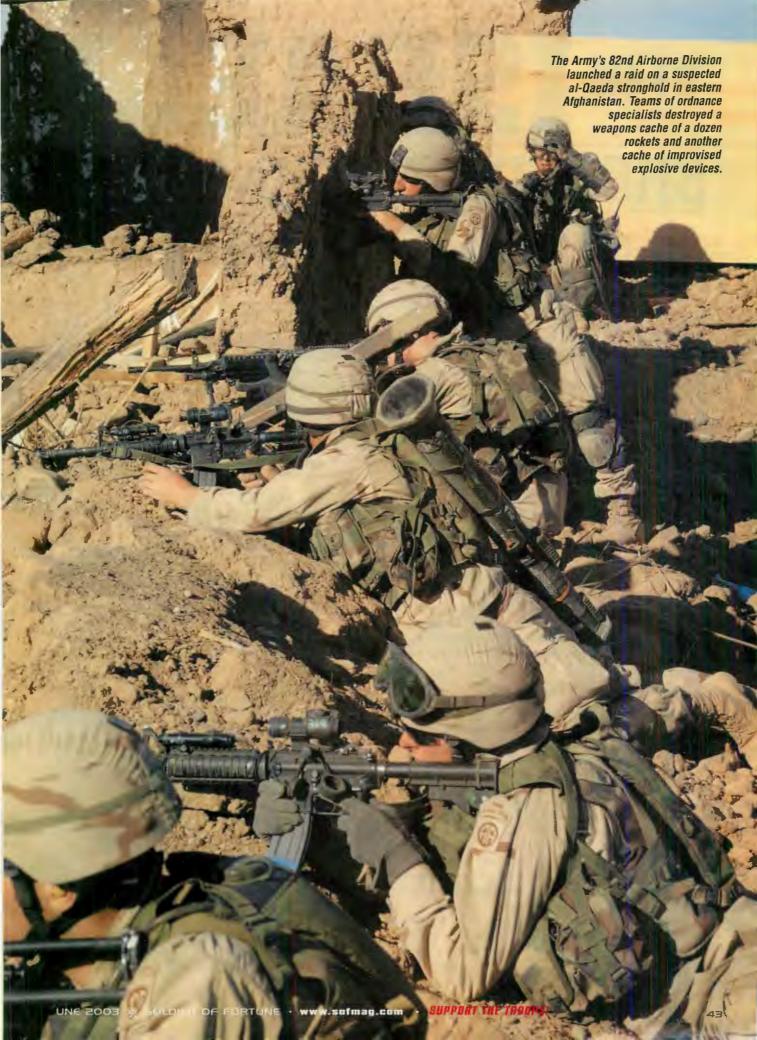
In what has now been dubbed Operation Mongoose, soldiers continue to scour the cave complexes — once believed to have been used by Taliban and al-Qaeda forces before they were expelled from the area — for weapons caches and intelligence. The Pentagon reports searching more than 75 caves, finding in them cigarettes, cooking oil and pack animals — others revealed cell phones and bomb-making materials, according to Joint Chiefs Chairman General Richard Myers.

Additionally, Army forces swept a cave complex nearby at Qalat which yielded nearly 1,000 82 mm mortar rounds, 300 107mm rockets, machine-gun ammunition, artillery rounds and mines.

The search for more caches and rebel fighters continues and could go on for weeks to come.

"You've got three-quarters of the country that's reasonably stable, and you've got the eastern part of the country which has elements in it and just across the border that can attack and they are doing that," Myers said at a 29 Jan. Pentagon briefing. "I don't know if this is going to be typical or not, but we certainly expect conflict in that part of Afghanistan."





THE ISRAELI SHOOTING TECHNIQUES

Or, How To Get Yourself Shot To Pieces In Style

BY JIM SHULTS

Since the late 1970s America's self-defense- and combatshooters have learned advanced gun-fighting techniques from the likes of Cooper, Farnam, Ayoob, Chapman, and more recently, from Clint Smith and others. These techniques work so well that all winning combat-competition-type shooters use them, or slight modifications of them, but the basic stance and gun-manipulation is the same.

So, if something works so well why not *regress* to something really stupid and market it to those who don't know better? Besides, it must be terrific if gun magazines rave about it and Hollywood "experts" embrace it.

Wow! This Is Hot!

I'm talking about the so-called "Israeli shooting technique." This system has been incredibly well-promoted in the U.S. and in some states in Mexico.

Some chaps from Israel — claiming to have been in the Mossad — came to the U.S. in the early 1990s, utilized their contacts and went directly to Hollywood to promote their technique. Some claim to have trained SEALs and other SpecOps outfits, as well as the State Department. So I checked. None of these organizations use these "new" techniques — and for good reason.

History Of The Israeli Method

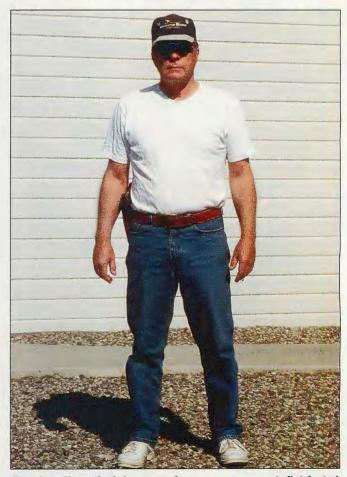
In the early 1960s the Mossad needed help in assassination techniques and tactics. Aside from obvious mission goals they also were concerned about accidental discharges and of hitting the wrong person. This, coupled with the less sophisticated firearms at that time, created a requirement for total safety to potential bystanders. So where did the Mossad go for help? To the U.S., of course. With American cooperation, they were hooked-up with a recently retired USMC Master Sergeant to instruct them. A decent choice but the guy only knew *military* shooting methods. So he mixed a few of his ideas in with his years of military training to set up a lesson plan for the Israelis. At that time, and for years to come, the Israeli SpecOps people used the tiny, easy-to-operate Beretta .22 caliber pistol.

The former Marine taught the same basic shooting stance that the FBI was using at the time. He taught them to carry the pistol with the chamber empty, like the military taught him. He taught that when the target was in view the pistol was drawn, the slide was then racked using the thumb and

forefinger. Once the shooting started, the (.22 short-caliber) pistol was to be emptied into the bad guy's head (Mafia-style) at very close range. This basic assassination technique was then combined into a "standard" self-defense firearm program using the then-FBI basics.

This out-of-date shooting method is now being touted to Hollywood and wannabes throughout America who are impressed by a bunch of guys with thick accents claiming to be former Mossad agents, as if *that* makes them combat-shooters.

In summary, the "Israeli method" uses a 30-years-out-of-



The Israeli method has you face your opponent flat-footed (Western movie-style).

date FBI stance and is the culmination of military-pistolmanipulation taught by a Marine Master Sergeant early in the 1960s!

There are various derivations of this "method" being taught by the various Israeli schools or instructors, but there is a basic program.

The Israeli Method Analyzed

First, they teach the old FBI flat-footed face-on-squat stance (some give the option of the squat). Students draw an auto-pistol that is carried with the chamber *empty*. As you draw, rotate the pistol sideways so the slide is facing your support hand and pull the pistol tight into the strong-hand shoulder/chest area. Once gripped, the pistol is forced forward with the strong hand (the hand with the pistol) so that the slide is then racked and released hopefully chambering a round, resulting in a single, fully extended gun hand. Then the support hand is held tight against the chest with the forearm across the heart. Then, students immediately begin firing. Did I mention they *don't* teach aiming? It is almost always rapid-fire instinctive-shooting.

This technique teaches single-hand shooting. However, if you so desire, after you rack the slide, you can then join the fully extended shooting hand with your weak hand for more support, but by this time — according to their basic method — you have already begun shooting. Another variation taught by these "experts" is that the gun is drawn and used as described but then the free hand and arm is flung out to the side at shoulder-level to strike anyone who might be sneaking up behind you on that side. Preposterous!

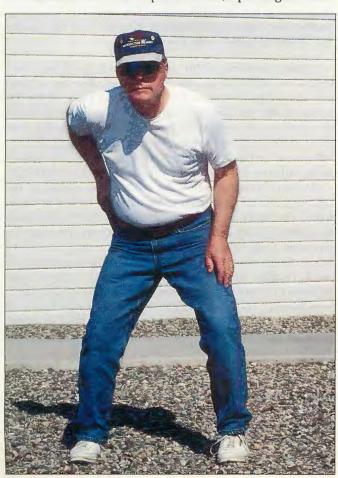
Another of their techniques teaches (depending on which

group is doing the teaching) that the pistol is rotated to a normal sights-up stance during the gun thrust. Still another — more popular — technique teaches that the pistol is kept turned *sideways*, the technique which has been promoted by their Hollywood contacts in film and TV — and which has (fortunately) been adapted by gangs — making them easier for cops to kill them in a gunfight.

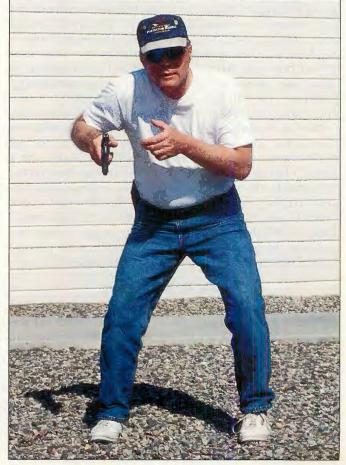
Contrasted With U.S. Schools

The modified-Weaver Stance (and Isosceles stance in some cases), taught by most U.S. instructors and all the better guntraining schools, teaches students to do a quick 45-degree turn the instant they spot trouble and prior to the draw.

contacted John Farnam (who can be editor@sofmag.com), a firearms instructor and author of SOF's column, Combat Weaponcraft, calls this the "interview" position. This rotates your body slightly sideways to your potential attacker and presents the yet-empty weak hand up and slightly forward in a very stable, low-exposure basic boxer-like stance to an opponent. This protects you and indicates to a potential (not-yet-deadly-armed) opponent to "stop." The forward hand can be used to fend-off a close-in attack. If an opponent is close enough to physically attack a defender in this stance this basic boxer-like stance is very stable. You can use your forward hand to push a close-in aggressor away while you back up a couple of steps with the option to run or fist-fight. Now you can draw your gun because in this position it is difficult — to impossible — for your attacker to get to your pistol if he is that close to begin with. The face-on, flat-footed Israeli in the above situation will result in his getting quickly knocked on his ass. Also, the



Then crouch and begin the draw — with an empty chamber.



You must begin to move your hand to the slide while pulling your gun hand into your shoulder.

American techniques will allow you to quickly move out of harm's way and behind cover; the Israeli methods generally can't and, therefore, don't teach movement — so, you just

stand and fight it out!

Some individual U.S. instructors and Executive Security International (a renowned tactical firearms-training academy in Aspen, Colo.; www.esi-lifeforce.com) teach that in a gunfight, where you have no immediate cover, you fire — allowing a time interval after the draw. They do not teach you to fire *immediately* after the draw because presentation of a firearm may convince the bad guys to simply go away. This is similar to most U.S. schools. Remember, the better U.S. schools and their instructors teach that the goal is to survive, not to fire unless there are no other options.

Bob Duggan, ESI's President, states "I couldn't agree with him [author Jim Shults] more. ESI has been in the business of tactical firearms-training for nearly 25 years. We have seen fads come and go; one shooting dogma replaced by yet another guru. It is simply incredible that a retrograde shooting technique like the one promoted in the name of Israeli Anti-Terrorist Shooting Techniques be recycled one more time after it was rightly pitched into the trash bin 50 years ago."

The second U.S.-taught method is to stop the attack with gunfire, not kill the attacker, although killing may be a side product. I have heard that one of these Israeli groups teaches you to then walk up and again shoot the wounded survivor (assuming you win).

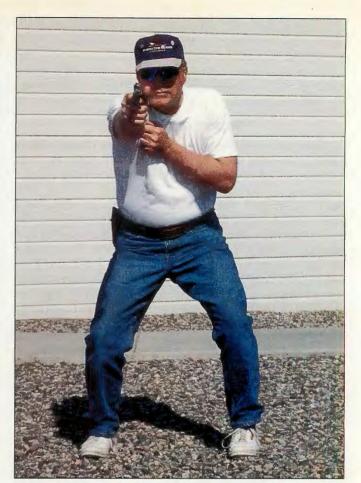
After The Draw — What?

All of the U.S. techniques teach that you draw a loaded and chambered pistol and — depending on the instant threat — either fire or present the pistol as a threat with your finger off the trigger (which can be reached and functioned in a tiny fraction of a second if necessary). The Israeli method trains that once you draw, you immediately begin firing — and fire a lot. There is no gun-presenting to show some idiot 20 feet from you that you want him and his friends to go away. Nope, when you draw "Israeli-style" you start blasting. Remember, you will fight like you train. If trained to immediately fire after the draw, odds are great you will do just that.

No U.S. technique or U.S. instructor teaches that you shoot every time you draw unless you see an instant and deadly threat which can instantly reach you; a guy with a knife 25 feet away from you is not a draw-and-shoot threat. Additionally, the Israeli training I have witnessed has students reciting convoluted sentences like the one I heard, "Stop! Do not reach for that gun or I will have to draw mine." Bottom line is that it takes a top gunman at least 3/4ths a second from the time he stops talking to react to any physical action from an opponent. The less said, the safer.

Aiming Hot Taught Here

In all U.S. firearm schools (military, SpecOps, law-enforcement and civilian), aiming is taught. This is not precise target-aiming. We are talking about getting the front and rear sights on the target and firing, if necessary. With very little training this can be accomplished nearly instantly. Okay, it's the heat of a life and death battle and you start shooting with the nifty Israeli instinctive-shooting training (not aiming). Assuming you survive and win the fight, try to explain to a judge and jury, with the "encouragement" of the prosecutor and police officers, that those shots you sprayed over the landscape smashing into cars, buildings — and bystanders — were the results of your taking a "Mossad" course on how *not* to aim your pistol.



Shove the gun forward while keeping your slide-hand in the same position thus (hopefully) chambering a round. From this position you immediately begin firing one-handed.

It takes no talent to fire and hit a bad guy 3 feet away, unless you still have to chamber a round. Up-close a blind man can get hits, but just 4 or 5 yards can make all the difference in any real accuracy in the "crap your pants"-pressure of a gunfight. If instinctive shooting is so wonderful, how many instinctive professional or amateur competitors anywhere use instinctive techniques? How many law-enforcement, military, and SpecOps units use instinctive shooting?

As John Farnam states when talking about aiming, "You can never shoot fast enough to make up for misses in a gunfight." One of the basic elements taught in American schools is to draw quickly and shoot slowly (relatively) because *only hits count*. Under life-and-death pressure, getting good, aimed hits is tough enough, but if you start off by not aiming it's much tougher. Most American self-defense schools teach beginners to routinely draw, fire (if they must) and hit an 8-inch-diameter metal plate in one second at 7 yards. This is an impossible task for students of the Israeli method to accomplish in anything near the learning-curve time of the American schools.

Slide-Operation

The Israeli slide-manipulation method is a disaster in waiting. I guarantee you that in a once-in-a-lifetime, "holy-crap"-panic, self-defense encounter, the odds of your drawing your empty pistol, rotating it, pulling it to your shoulder while precisely gripping the rear of the slide with your fingers, properly chambering and getting it running is — Mission Impossible! Real life isn't a gun range; there is no rehearsal. What if you miss the grip and thrust out a pistol

with nothing in the chamber? What if you don't get a good enough grip on it to fully rack the slide (short-racking)? Sure, none of us have ever done that. What about a misfeed and you thrust the pistol out with a stoppage? In the heat of battle you will not notice the problem until you try to fire; whoops, too late. Besides, what kind of idiot brings an "unloaded" pistol to a gunfight?

You must keep things simple and practice what you have learned. You don't have a lot of time to decide on plan A, B, C or D if lead is flying around you. You will generally go to your training knowledge. The Army Rangers have a saying. "Fight like you train and train like you fight." I might add, KISS. If you are taught to work the slide to chamber a round with your thumb and forefinger and your gun quits running in the fight, you will instinctively use that same grip and method to try to clear the stoppage. The slide on a tiny .22 Beretta is one thing to pull with your fingers if a round gets jammed, but try that with a jammed-up 9mm, .40, or .45. Also, if you get a stovepipe or the "deadly" double-feed (second round jammed up behind a loaded round) then what?

The Israeli schools I know of don't teach solutions for clearing the various stoppages of this type; U. S. schools do.

The Israeli method teaches that the sliderelease lever is to be used to close the slide after inserting a magazine in a reload situation. If you are trained to rack the slide with your thumb and fingers but when the gun runs dry and you are taught to use the slide release you now have two things to do when under life and death pressure. I have watched people run a pistol dry then charge it with a loaded magazine and forget to hit the slide release or simply miss it. Up goes the still-inoperative pistol and they stand there crushing the trigger until they realize the slide is not closed and they fumble for the release lever. A gunfight is no place for that kind of SNAFU!

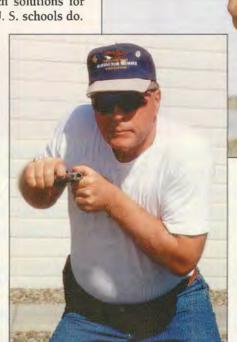
Typically, American trainers and schools teach that everything is done with the slide, not the release lever (except in a wound emergency). American schools teach that the entire hand is used to work the slide for all functions, because two hands and arms are

much stronger than your thumb and forefinger. This is especially true for women, besides quickly locating and operating a slide release is difficult, at best, in a class — but in a fight?

In gunfights, time slows down and one gets tunnel vision. You may not hear the gunfire; you don't feel recoil, and you sure as hell don't count your shots. Suddenly, the pistol is empty, so you must react quickly and with big hand movements, not little, precise muscle movements with fingers. If you have a stoppage, you had better be able to react without thinking to get your gun running and that is only accomplished by full-hand slide-operation. The Israeli methods do not teach clearing of jams, except for a simple ball-and-dummy routine, and that only in some courses.

You Get What You Deserve

It is common for Israeli instructors to turn the class into physical training sessions with various high-energy activities such as runs, pushups, etc. Expect them to use valuable class time to teach forms of hand-to-hand fighting. Other Israeli courses may make you do both. Ask yourself, did you come to learn to shoot effectively or to learn hand-to-hand because



The Israelis teach that once the empty-chamber pistol is drawn it is pulled into the shoulder where the slide is grasped by the thumb and forefinger and then the pistol is shoved forward, thus chambering a round for immediate single-hand instinct-firing.

you can't do either effectively in the available class time? So why all the extra tap-dancing dressed up to be something "really special"

just for you? Their courses are so shallow in content and capability that they have to have filler, or people will realize they have been suckered. A few hand-to-hand tricks impress beginners with this "new and deadly" knowledge. If nothing else, these guys are good marketers; but then again they have been selling thin air and smoke and mirrors for big bucks to suckers throughout the U.S. for nearly a decade.

A local "self-defense club" has one of these guys come to my town to "teach" from time to time." Recently, this "Mossad" hero appeared on a news-starved TV station's filler segment and heroically proclaimed, "I have come to America to help you learn to defend yourselves against terrorism."

I, for one, feel so much safer.

A long-time associate of SOF, Shults is a Distinguished Rifleman, NRA Life Member, and Master-level competitor. He has held several national records, won many national, regional and state rifle championships. He has instructed SWAT and other special units in sniper techniques, and has taught civilian/police and counter-terrorism gun-fighting courses around the world.

THE 2002 Small Arms Review (SAR) SHOW

Historical And Current Military Small Arms Almost Beyond Imagination

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Held in Phoenix, Arizona, on 7 and 8 December, 2002, the third annual *Small Arms Review* (SAR) Show featured many state-of-the-art arms and accessory producers, as well as companies specializing in firearms of wars past. As in the past, guarding the entrance to the show was a selection of vintage military vehicles, all restored to like-new condition with original ordnance. However, inside were thousands of special weapons that one could see and touch. Let's take a closer look.

D.S. Arms, Inc., came to the SAR Show with a variety of its FAL variants as well as its MAG 58 LMGs and other weapons. We recently took delivery of one of D.S. Arm's MAG 58s, and will be doing a test and evaluation comparison on it soon. Contact: D.S. Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 370, Lake Barrington, IL 60010; phone: 847-277-7258.

EOTECH, Inc., displayed the latest versions of its illuminated red reticle holographic sight. Designed to fit on any Weaver-style rail, the EOTECH has a number of features not found on other illuminated optics, and is water-proof to 60 feet. Contact: EOTECH, Dept. SOF, 3600 Green Ct., Ste. 400, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; phone: 374-741-8868.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Robinson, of Robinson Armament, brought along R.A.'s Recon Carbine. Based on the Stoner 63, this .223-caliber rifle is advanced in many ways, but Alex has two new rifles under his sleeve that we'll tell you about soon in *SOF*. Contact: Robinson Armament Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 16774, Salt Lake City, UT 84116; phone: 801-355-0401.

McBros Rifle Company brought a number of its superb .50 caliber bolt-action rifles plus a sample of the Tubb 2000 Tactical rifle. Designed by renowned rifle shooter

David Tubb, this high-precision .308 caliber rifle is capable of producing MOA accuracy out to 1,000 yards. Contact: McBros Rifle Co., Dept. SOF, 1638 W. Knudsen Dr., Ste. 102, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-582-3713.

Dr. Phillip Dater, President of Gemtech, Inc., brought a selection of his fine sound suppressors including his newest model for the 5.56mm M249 SAW. Dr. Dater manufactures a wide range of suppressors from those permanently mounted, to the quick-detachable variety. Contact: Gemtech, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 140618, Boise, ID 83714; phone: 208-939-7222.

My friend Larry Bullock, of Buffer Technologies, not only makes state-of-the-art protective buffers for a wide variety of self-loading rifles, but has also developed a number of items now used by the Special Forces. One of these is his MAG-CINCH, a simple, but effective device that joins two 30-round M16 magazines together, side by side. Sharing a booth with Buffer Tech. was Global Tactical Supply (GTS), makers of some of slickest AR-15/M16 accessories in the business, such as its Handguard Removal Tool (HRT) that makes removing your AR-15 handguards an instant cinch. Contact: Buffer Technologies, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 104903, Jefferson City, MO 65110; phone: 573-634-8529.



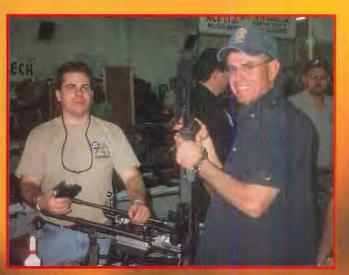
The entrance to the SAR 2002 Show was guarded by vintage military vehicles, restored to like-new condition.



RES Defense Systems displayed its new SHRIKE belt-feed conversion for the AR-15/M16 rifle. This was one of the most exciting things at the show.



Tin addition to a mighty pretty gal, Lauer Custom Weaponry showed off its DuraCoat finish on a number of guns.



Dave Salvagio, of D.S. Arms, discusses some of the MAG 58's liner points with Gil Angelotti



Gil Angelotti holds JAY TEE'S one-and-only Stoner 63 Survival Carbine, originally designed and built by Robert Gaddis at Cadillac Gauge in Costa Mesa, California.



McBros Rifle Company brought along a sample of its high-precision Tubb Tactical Rifle in .308 Winchester caliber.



A mutual friend of Bob Landies and the author is Kent Lomont, of Lomont Precision Bullets, another class III dealer who also specializes in high-quality classic military firearms and accessories. I've been using Kent's new .223 linker, and it works great. Linking 20 rounds of .223 at once is a cinch with this new tool. Contact: Lomont Precision Bullets, Dept. SOF, 278 Sandy Creek Rd., Salmon, ID 83467; phone: 208-756-6819.

Steve Hines, of Falcon Industries and Mike Fitzpatrick, of MagPul, were on hand with plenty of excellent accessories for the AR-15 and other rifles. MagPul's new adjustable AR-15 stock was a big hit, as were Falcon's ERGO Grips and Low Profile Picatinny rail handguards. I use these products on all of my AR-15's. Contacts: Falcon Ind., Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1060, Tijeras, NM 87050; phone: 505-281-3783; MagPul, Ind. Corp., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 17697, Boulder, CO 80308; phone: 877-4 MAGPUL.

Robert I. Landies, of Ohio Ordnance Works, and I have been friends for more than a quarter of a century. Specializing in classic military firearms, O.O.W. is

renowned for its superb semi-automatic BAR, and has just gone into production of its semi-automatic VZ2000. Using original, like-new rare Czech VZ58 parts, the VZ2000 is built on a newly machined receiver. See our test of this rifle in July issue. Contact: Ohio Ordnance Works, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 687, Chardon, OH 44024; phone: 440-285-3481.

An interesting new development is the new SHRIKE from ARES, Inc. Consisting of an upper component (receiver group) for the AR-15 and M16, the SHRIKE instantly converts these rifles to belt feed using standard M27 .223 caliber links. What's more, the rifle can still use standard box magazines without further modification. As you read this, the SHRIKE will be in full production. Look for a live-fire test of this exciting product soon in SOF. Contact: ARES Defense Systems, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 10667, Blacksburg, VA 24062; phone: 540-639-8633.

J & T Distributing arrived with a huge offering of its products. J & T offers an extensive array of AR-15 accessories, including complete upper components in all configurations. If you can't find it at J & T, it may not exist, but if it can be configured, they'll do it for you on a custom basis. Contact: J & T



- ◆ Dr. Phillip Dater shows Gil Angelotti his latest suppressor on the U.S. M249 SAW LMG.
- ▼ Steve Hines (L), of Falcon Industries, poses with Richard Fitzpatrick, of MagPul, as Gil Angelotti checks out an AR-15 with their accessories.





Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hunnicutt passed out hundreds of sample lissues of Rifle Shooter and the Shotgun News.

Distributing, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 430, Winchester, KY 40319; phone: 888-736-7725.

JAY TEE'S offers a complete selection of parts for these rare guns, and had on display the one and only Stoner 63 Survival Carbine that I helped locate. I'll be testing this U.S. Air Force experimental weapon soon for SOF. Contact: JAY TEE'S, Dept. SOF, 20 Lakeview Dr., Marshall, IL 62441; phone: 217-345-6292.

Lauer Custom Weaponry displayed its DuraCoat and DuraBake gun finishes. Extremely durable and protective, these finishes come in a wide variety of colors in addition to Camopaks to apply any type of camouflage to your gun. DuraCoat is in wide use by a number of companies including DSA, Inc. Contact: Lauer Custom Weaponry, Dept. SOF, 3601 129th St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729; Phone: 800-830-6677.

Dillon Precision had to travel only a short distance to bring an impressive array of its reloading equipment. Color coded blue, Dillon's reloading presses are offered in a calibers and styles for every need. The company is especially known for its progressive reloaders. Contact: Dillon Precision Products, Inc., Dept. SOF, 8009 East Dillon Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone: 800-223-4570.

Primedia Outdoor Network brought a ton of the latest issues of Shotgun News and Rifle Shooter to pass out at the SAR Show. Having read Shotgun News since I was a brunette, I attribute much of whatever knowledge I have of firearms to this publication. It's continued to improve with age and I recommend it highly. Keep up the good work, folks. Contact: Shotgun News, Dept. SOF, 2 News Plaza, Peoria, IL 61614; phone: 309-679-5321.

The 2002 SAR Show was well worth the time, and is expected to be bigger and better this year. For information on how to subscribe to the Small Arms Review, contact Moose Lake Publishing, LLC, Dept. SOF, 223 Sugar Hill Road, Harmony, ME 04942; phone: 207-683-2959. And remember, if your Founding Fathers did not intend for private individuals to own guns, it was the best kept secret of the 19th Century. To keep your small arms, JOIN THE NRA, and VOTE!





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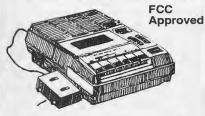
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Are American Troops Ready For NBC Warfare?

A Pre-Invasion Report From Kuwait

BY DON NORTH

ith 300,000 American soldiers bivouacked in Kuwait preparing to go up against Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological weapons, the questions recently posed by Colonel David Hackworth and CBS correspondent Mike Wallace are troubling. As a veteran journalist I live by the credo ... there are no dumb questions, only dumb answers. In the 60 Minutes broadcast 16 February, Hack and Wallace charged that our forces were not properly prepared during the first Gulf War 12 years ago and are still not prepared to encounter the type of weapons known to be in Iraq's arsenal. Fair questions. However, the Pentagon lost the encounter by

producing a desk expert with the title Head of Chemical and Biological Preparedness. Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar gave the impression of a bureaucrat well coached by Pentagon "media trainers" to give smooth but vapid and empty rhetorical

Navy corpsman PO3 Doc Schwab, of Broadview Heights, Ohio, helps close the MOPP suit zipper for Marine Corporal Matt Pashby of Kalamazoo, Mich., somewhere in the north Kuwaiti desert. Both are with Bridge Company Bravo, 8th Engineer Support Battalion. New suits were unpacked, fitted and dated, as after 30 days they start to loose their effectiveness.





answers. Dumb answers. "We have world class equipment. We've made this a priority. Our young men and women...are trained. They know what to do," Dr. Johnson-Winegar intoned, avoiding any hard facts. Assuming CBS edited the interview fairly, Dr. Johnson-Winegar's apparent lack of conviction gave the families of soldiers massing in the Gulf no assurance and simply poured oil on the controversy.

Arriving in Kuwait, I immediately requested a day or so with the best NBC-ready troops in the field, or even the worst NBC-ready troops in the field. Neither was forthcoming on short notice and it was suggested I wait until I had been "embedded" with a unit to make it easier on all concerned. Meanwhile, a friendly Public Affairs Officer slipped me a massive e-mail transcript of a "round-table NBC readiness briefing" held at the Pentagon on 3 March, the same day I was making a nuisance of myself with NBC questions in Kuwait. Now, I live just 5 miles from the Pentagon and probably could have attended that briefing. But news comes in strange ways and this is probably the most authoritative discussion I have been privy to in 12 years of asking questions on this subject, after observing at first hand in the first Gulf War that we indeed did not have our troops appropriately prepared for NBC warfare.

The following transcript has been edited for space.

The Pentagon, 3 March 2003

In attendance: Major General John Doesburg CO, Soldier

Biological and Chemical Defense Command (responsible for research, development of chem-bio equipment and homeland chemical and biological defense operations); Brigadier General Steve Reeves XO, Chemical Biological Defense for U.S. DOD (responsible for biological agent detection, soldier protective equipment and medical issues); Col. Thomas Spoehr CO, the Chemical School's 3rd Brigade (trains 4,000 NBC officers per year, who are then assigned to every unit in the Army to advise commanders and assist troop training — there are 15,000 of these specialists in the Army).

Re: Improvement of Chem-Bio Detectors

Gen. Reeves: "We learned our lessons from the Gulf War. The M-8 alarms were false alarming to some common battlefield interferents like diesel fuel and JP-8 and insecticides. Based on that we developed a new detector called the Automatic Chemical Agent Detector Alarm, sometimes called the ACADA. This particular detector is not only more sensitive but was extensively tested against over 80 battlefield interferents so that it's designed to specifically reject those kinds of common battlefield inerferents that caused them to go off. Insecticide, after all, attacks the same things that nerve agent attacks, in a bug. So insecticide is essentially a diluted nerve agent. So to design a piece of equipment that can specifically reject that kind of interference is what we were after, and it's what we accomplished. We can still get 1-2% false alarms. You know if you held it up to the tailpipe of a vehicle, why, yeah, it would probably go off. But in 98, 99% of the time, we've got an improved detector and we're con-



vinced that we fixed the problem. We actually have over 20,000 ACADA in inventory. Solely, exclusively. The M-8s are purged out."

Re: Defective Suits, Do Troops Have the Right Suits?

Gen. John Doesburg: "We've issued a new suit—the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology, or JSLIST to those who are deployed."

Col. David Hackworth had quoted a GAO (General Accounting Office) report that claimed up to 250,000 suits have potentially fatal defects and are still unaccounted for. Regarding this, Gen. Doesbeurg noted: "In that report (GAO) they are referring to something called the battle-dress over-garment, which is an older suit that we had, which we still have in the inventory. If [it] eventuality ends up that we have to issue some of those battle-dress over-garments, although we've done extensive checks into our inventory, we will inspect each one of them prior to them being issued to any soldier, sailor airman or Marine. The forces being deployed [now] have been deployed with the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology."

Gen. Steve Reeves: "Every soldier has at least two; our Marines have three. And I would tell you, the thing about the battle-dress over-garment is, this report has to do with suits that were produced more than a decade ago. The actual, important numbers here are three and zero: We checked three times, and there are zero defective suits in our contingency stocks."

Re: Adverse Conditions in the Desert Effecting Equipment

Gen. Reeves: "The first thing is that we recognize that when you've got blowing dust and sand, there are certain things you need to protect. This detector has a dust cap that fits on the air inlet. We also recognize the same thing is true with our filters and they need to be routinely checked. And one of the ways we do that is the new protective mask actually has a system that you can check to make sure that mask is properly fit and that you have the right fit on the shoulder and that the mask is operating properly. From the standpoint of heat, part of our testing regimen is to test these things to all the extremes, from 50 degrees below zero to over 150 degrees, so that we're convinced that they'll operate in all climates that we might have to operate in.

Re: Deficiency in Vaccine Stocks:

Gen. Reeves: "We don't have as much botulinum vaccine as we would like. The fact is, that right now that is what we call an investigational new drug. It is not licensed by the FDA, and we need to get that license by the FDA. We also have some anti-toxin for post-exposure treatment. Same story, we don't have as much as we'd like, but we have some. And we have medical treatment. We can put people on ventilators, if necessary. As a practical matter, botulinum is not something that is easily dispersed over a large area to

Marine Lieutenant Adrien Thom, of Jacksonville, NC, writes date of issue on MOPP gear of Lance Corporal Chris Tarkowski, of Mattawan, Mich., in north Kuwait desert. Both are from Bridge Company Bravo, 8th ESB, 2nd Force Service Support Group.

infect a lot of folks. We're concerned but we believe that we have the stockpiles on hand to treat folks, if necessary. As far as potential threats that we see in the area, anthrax, and smallpox, we have more than adequate stocks and are in fact inoculating all of our soldiers."

Re: PB Use by Troops in the Gulf

During the first Gulf War PB (Pryidostegmine Bromide) pills were issued to American troops as a protective drug against nerve-gas attacks. It later became controversial as some troops and medical experts suggested it may have caused or contributed to Gulf War Syndrome.

Gen. Reeves: "Right now there is no plan to issue PB. It is available. It is specifically FDA licensed for the treatment of Soman. And it's a drug we will understand. It's safe, it's effective, it's been around for over 50 years and used in other means. But as it stands today we have no plans to issue it.

Col. Hackworth quoted retired Captain Eric Taylor, who studied NBC preparedness of our troops for a Cato Institute Report. "Commanders never thought they would face NBC," said Capt. Taylor. "They viewed it as a waste of time, as a joke. I understand we are now dispatching specialized teams to do

crash training, almost on-the-job training. You don't do on-the-job training with these things. These things will kill you."

Gen. Spoehr: "The U.S. Army is the best trained Army in the world to operate in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment. There was a report a couple of years ago: The Army took a look at that report. There were some areas that required additional emphasis. And the division and corps chemical officers have reported back and acknowledged those areas and have taken corrective action to fix every one of those shortcomings. Some of the soldiers were not getting the exact training they needed to operate some of the specific pieces of equipment, or they could not put them into operation; when the time came to show how they could operate it, they weren't able to do so. And that was a serious aspect for us, and the commanders on the ground took the appropriate action to fix those items. Every Army unit, from company above, has a trained specialist in it, whose job is to do nothing but to ensure that the people in his unit are trained to operate in that environment and to keep their equipment maintained and ready. So that's kind of our ace in the hole, we take a lot of reassurance in that."

Continued on page 75



Not Using Our NBC Czech-Mate

BY DON NORTH

Twelve years after the first Gulf War, Czech Army experts in Nuclear-Biological-Chemical warfare are back in the area where they were the only forces to detect nerve gas. This time, they are part of "Combined Joint Task Force — Consequence Management" along with American and German forces. It's basically a civil defense team to protect the host nation Kuwait from NBC consequences, which might result from an attack by local Al Qaeda supporters, or the Iraqis.

Although millions have been spent by the U.S. government to study the affects of what the Czechs found in the desert in January 1991, it remains a Gulf War Gas Mystery. Did it have an effect on 200,000 American veterans suffering symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome? Was it fallout from bombing Iraq, enemy attempts to launch nerve gas attacks, or secret experiments of the Saudi or American forces? No one has come forward with the answer after 12 years. Now on the eve of an invasion to neutralize whatever NBC agents the Iraqis possess, it appears the Czechs may still not be used to the best advantage.

Since 1991, the Czechs have steadily improved their already leading-edge equipment and techniques, and are recognized as the best NBC warriors in NATO and perhaps the world. Their gas mask contains filters that will protect the wearer from 70 toxic chemicals, a far higher capability than any other nation's gas masks. Recognizing their prowess in developing NBC protective equipment, the Czechs have recently mounted a commercial campaign to market it worldwide.

One element has changed, however: Twelve years ago logbooks show that officers in General Norman Schwarzkopf's command dismissed the Czechs detections and ordered U.S. troops to disregard them. Now the U.S. Military has learned to respect the Czech expertise, even though as this report is written in mid-March, it does not appear the Czech battalion will be invited to go into Iraq, where the danger of NBC weapons to an attacking force will be greatest.

Although the Czech 1st Biological and Chemical Protection Battalion may be the best military force engaged in recon they will be largely assigned to standby as a decontamination unit at the National Exhibition Center on the edge of Kuwait City. The Czechs can decontaminate 500 people or 200 vehicles per hour. The 100 German specialists manning six "Fox" NBC reconnaissance vehicles attached to CJTF-CM are prohibited by the German Parliament from entering Iraq should an invasion be launched.

Not so the Czechs. However, it looks like the best NBC recon outfit in the world will not be with American troops when they invade Iraq. American officers at Camp Doha have told me there are grave concerns that the Czechs would be in great danger of "friendly fire," because they drive the same Russian military vehicles as does the Iraqi Army. Even with colored marker panels on the vehicle roofs, identification from the air could be hazardous. Only a few of the 350 Czechs based here speak English, and American officers have suggested the misunderstandings possible in the heat of battle could prove serious.

The inability to use such talent is a pity, as although American NBC capability may be world class, the Czechs are the world's best.

Troops of the 1st Czech-Slovak NBC Battalion demonstrate a variety of NBC suits and decontamination procedures they will use as needed if Coalition forces or Kuwaiti citizens are slimed in the Iraq war. As we go to press, plans are to only use their extraordinary capability in the Kuwait theater.





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Philippines Cerrorists

The ASG Still Bombing, Beheading And Massacring

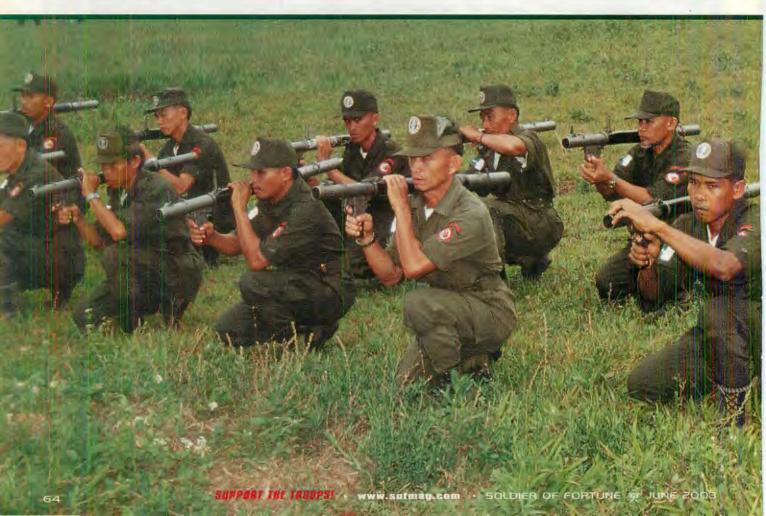
TEXT & PHOTOS BY MIKE WINCHESTER

alk of terrorism in the Philippines and two words spring instantly to mind — Abu Sayyaf. Ruthless, well-armed, and seemingly indestructible, these are terrorists with a history. Since being set up with al-Qaeda seed-money and expertise a decade ago, they've bombed, beheaded, kidnapped and massacred their way to become Asia's most notorious thugs.

At the beginning of this year the Manila government vowed that the "Abus," currently hiding out on Jolo island off mainland Mindanao, would be wiped out in the first half of 2003. And in a continuation of the joint U.S.-Philippine training exercises called *Balikatan* begun last year, several hun-

dred U.S. Special Forces have arrived in the south to assist in their demise, though it's unclear whether they'll engage in combat or act in purely advisory roles.

Which raises an interesting question: Why recently did the biggest military operation in the southern Philippines in years target not the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) but another very different Muslim insurgent faction — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)? In mid-February, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assembled a multi-battalion task force of some 5,000 Army and Marine Corps troops backed by OV-10 Bronco counter-insurgency aircraft, armor and 105mm artillery and conducted a full-scale sweep through



insurgent-held turf called the Buliok Complex near the town of Pikit on the mainland of southern Mindanao.

A vicious four-day fight left the AFP masters of a guerrilla base area where they found Arabic-language manuals on bomb-making and demolition. Over 160 guerrillas had been killed, and another 1,000 scattered. But that assault triggered a sweeping insurgent counter-offensive, with raids, ambushes, attacks on power-lines and terrorist bombings across Mindanao. A single bomb blast at Davao International Airport on 4 March killed 23 and wounded nearly 150.

So, if the Philippines is the hottest spot in Southeast Asia's war on terror, where — and who's — the threat? On the jungled islands of the Sulu Sea? Or in the marshes and rice paddies of central Mindanao? The ASG or MILF? Or both?

Separating truth from propaganda, black from white in what is arguably Asia's largest gray-area is never easy. Mindanao and the islands of the Sulu Sea are home to a constantly shifting kaleidoscope of Muslim insurgents, Communist guerrillas, "lost commands," kidnap-for-ransom gangs, government militia groups, politicians' private goonsquads, and mind-numbing combinations of all the above. This in a land where the proliferation of loose firepower, imported and home-made, makes the Afghan tribal areas look like a pacifists convention. And a land where visiting terrorists — Arabs, Pakistanis, Southeast Asians — transit in and out with disconcerting ease. A vast gray area.

But within this fluid context, some generalizations are

safe: Reduced today to between 400-500 gunmen holed-up on Jolo, the ASG represents an irritant — persistent, painful and, from Manila's viewpoint, frequently embarrassing. But nonetheless an irritant. Its depreda-

tions have won it no popularity even among Muslims; and since 9/11 it's also become something of a useful punch-bag on which the AFP with assistance from U.S. Special Forces instructors, can hone and modernize it's counter-insurgent/counter-terrorist skills.

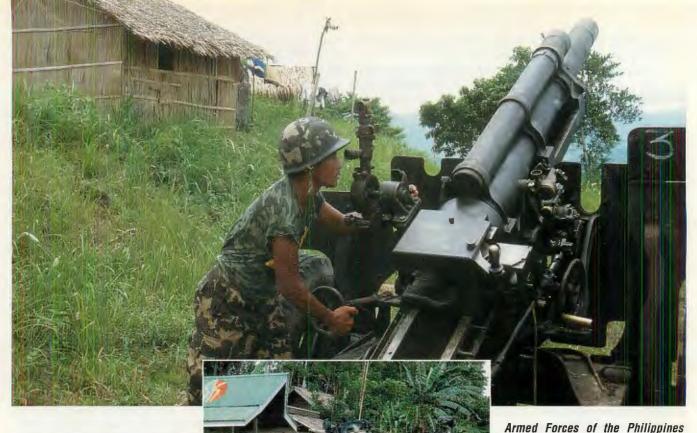
By contrast, the MILF, weighing-in with over 11,000 armed guerrillas, is big, well-organized and, to a degree, popular. While it prefers these days to deny it, the MILF has certainly had contact with regional terror groups and has itself demonstrated a capability for devastating terrorist strikes. Over the long-term the AFP's major concern is the communist New People's Army (NPA); but the MILF is its most immediate threat and it's not about to go away.

A Most Unusual Spade

As the February operation made embarrassingly clear, however, within the Philippine Establishment there are serious differences of opinion about how best to tackle the threat: at the negotiating table or on the battlefield. And, closely linked to that, is the touchstone controversy over whether the MILF should, or could, join the ASG and NPA on the U.S. State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations. So far, the intervention of the Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisors eager to talk peace with a group that may be too big to crush militarily has kept the MILF off the list. Impatient generals in the upper echelons of the AFP who've been watching the MILF duck and weave around the negotiating table for the past six years, reckon it's time to call a spade a spade.

MILF officer cadets at training academy in former HQ Camp Abu Bakr before it was overrun by AFP in 2000.





But it's an unusual spade. The MILF is a long way from the profile of a classic terrorist organization in the mold of al-Qaeda, Britain's IRA, or the Basque ETA. It emerged in the 1970s'-era of

Third-World "people's liberation" struggles, an Islamist break-away from the Moro National Liberation Front, the original group fighting for an independent state for the southern Philippines' Muslim minority.

Led by an Egyptian-trained religious scholar, Salamat Hashim, the Islamist faction based itself in Pakistan and founded the MILF in 1984. It gathered strength in the shadow of the Afghan war against the Soviets which deeply influenced its leaders. Several hundred Moro fighters passed through the training camps of the Afghan muj and many graduated to fight alongside the Afghans against the communists.

Back in Mindanao, the MILF expanded with a curious blend of revolutionary Islamist ideology grafted onto Maoist theories of revolutionary guerrilla warfare. MILF cadres mobilized the rural population using classic functional organizations involving *ulema* (Islamic clergy), youth, and women. And at the same time they built up a

tiered military structure of local and regional forces with a core "national guard" at the top of the pyramid. It was a long way from the VC and NVA but it aspired to the same patterns.

MILF influence and military units spread across Mindanao and extended to the island province of Basilan off the Zamboanga Peninsula. But the Front's heartland was central Mindanao — Lanao del Norte and Lano del Sur, Maguindanao, and Cotabato. It was here that the Front built its

main 'camps' — Abu Bakr, Bushra, Raja Muda, and Usman. These were less military camps than guerrilla base areas—extensive tracts of hill and arable country with military installations and training facilities as well as village communities where the MILF set up a parallel administration. With their own schools, laws and courts, these bases formed the nucleus of the consciously Islamic society which the MILF is working to establish.

Davao highway.

It was in the mid-1990s that the MILF began its dalliance with international terror. Almost inevitably the Front became part of the international jihadist network that grew out of the Afghan conflict. With the overthrow of communism in Afghanistan in 1992, Mindanao became one of several theaters where Islam was seen to be under threat. And given three centuries of Christian colonization of the Muslim south, which accelerated rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s, that perception was not without justification. From the mid-1990s,

Mindanao — like Kashmir, Bosnia, Tajikistan — attracted its share of Saudi finance, Arab and South-Asian missionaries and wannabe jihadis.

105mm battery in action against the

Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

(inset) Locally built Simba armored cars holding open main Cotabato-

Between 1995 and 2000, jihadi solidarity saw the MILF opening its doors to an influx of hundreds of *foreign* militants, eager to participate in the Philippine conflict, as well as to learn skills that would be used to change their own societies when the time came. Within the confines of its two biggest bases, Camp Abu Bakr, north of



MILF guerrilla company assembling before moving-out to front lines.

Cotabato City, and Camp Bushra, in the mountains of Lanao del Sur, three training facilities — specifically for foreigners - were set up.

Bin Laden's al-Qaeda was entirely aware of the southern Philippine situation. Initially, it focused its efforts and money on the Abu Sayyaf, founded on Basilan in 1991 by Abdul Razak Janjalani, who had known people close to bin Laden in Pakistan — including World Trade bomber Ramzi Yousef. Al-Qaeda funds and expertise were channeled towards it by bin Laden's brother-in-law, Jamal al-Khalifa, who was busy setting-up Islamic charities in Manila and the south. Ramzi Yousef, made his first visit to Basilan to train ASG bombers in 1991.

Broader Options

By the mid-1990s, however, evidence suggests that al-Qaeda was beginning to broaden its options. Bin Laden's lieutenants can hardly have approved of the ASG's slide into the cottage industries of extortion and kidnapping for ransom (KFR); nor can they have overlooked the military strength and support base of the MILF. In 1995, al-Qaeda's Operations Chief Abu Zubaidah dispatched Omar al-Faruq to Mindanao where he trained as an instructor at Abu Bakr. He was later to become al-Qaeda linkman with Southeast Asia.

Rohan Gunaratna, author of Inside al-Qaeda, has written that in February 1999, bin Laden, then in Afghanistan, used a satphone to ring Salamat Hashim (a fluent Arabic speaker from his days in Egypt).

But whatever the contacts between the MILF and al-Qaeda - and they were clearly limited - the bulk of the training intake in the MILF camps was from Southeast

Asia itself. Youths from Indonesia and Malaysia, and to a lesser extent Singapore and southern Thailand, were members of a growing militant network in the region that was soon be coordinated by Jama'ah Islamiah (JI). Headed by Indonesian

Abdullah Sungkar and Abu Bakr Ba'asir, JI was to develop by the late 1990s as al-Qaeda's South-east Asian affiliate and the umbrella organization for jihad in the region. Its long-term, if improbable, objective was the creation of a single Islamic state comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, southern Thailand, and the southern Philippines.

Jama'ah Islamiah saw the MILF as a crucial element in this enterprise. The Filipino brothers-in-jihad offered a range of benefits: training facilities far closer than those in Afghanistan, a source of weaponry and explosives for operations elsewhere in the region, and a real conflict. In 1997, JI actually set up a branch within the MILF's main base at Camp Abu Bakr bringing together two key players: one Filipino, the other Indonesian.

The Filipino was a former religious teacher called Saifullah Yunos, code-named 'Mukhlis'. Today in his late 30s, Mukhlis had continued his religious studies in Pakistan in 1993, graduating to the battlefields of Afghanistan where he fought and gained expertise in explosives and demolition at a camp run by al-Qaeda. He returned to Mindanao a member of JI and before long had risen to head the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the MILF's 3rd Division, an outfit that has today become what one Filipino intel official described to SOF as "the MILF's dirty tricks brigade" — a unit focused primarily on sabotage and urban-terror ops.

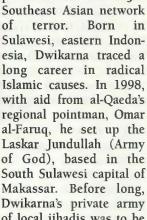
The Indonesian, Fathur Rahman al-Ghozi, was a younger man who'd graduated from the Islamic school of JI chief Abu Ba'asir on Java. He, too, traveled to Lahore, in Pakistan, to continue religious schooling and it was there that he met Mukhlis. He accompanied the Filipino to Afghanistan where he, too, trained in demolition and explosives before returning to Indonesia, a foot-soldier of JI.

The two men's paths again crossed in late 1996, when al-Ghozi's II mentors sent him on his first mission to the southern Philippines. Crossing clandestinely by sea from northern Sulawesi in Indonesia, al-Ghozi lost no time contacting his old comrade, Mukhlis, who was running training courses in Camp Abu Bakr. Much of December of that year he spent at the base talking with Mukhlis and undergoing a refresher course in small-arms.

In the three years that followed al-Ghozi traveled in and out of Mindanao, learning its dialects, acquiring two Philippine passports, setting-up bank accounts and — with Mukhlis' assistance and contacts — shipping explosives and weapons back to Indonesia and Malaysia and Singapore. The two men formed the core of a JI cell within the MILF.

Another key Indonesian militant looking to the MILF was Agus Dwikarna. Like al-Ghozi, Dwikarna was arrested in early 2002, but for several years he served as one of most

> pivotal individuals in JI's Southeast Asian network terror. Born Sulawesi, eastern Indonesia, Dwikarna traced a long career in radical Islamic causes. In 1998, with aid from al-Qaeda's regional pointman, Omar al-Faruq, he set up the Laskar Jundullah (Army of God), based in the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar. Before long, Dwikarna's private army of local jihadis was to be



involved in the Christian-Muslim religious strife that erupted in Sulawesi in 1999. Even before then, Dwikarna was looking to Mindanao and contacts in the MILF both for training and small-arms. Intel sources believe he made his first arms purchases in 1998.

Expansion of the MILF's role as a training base for regional militants was encouraged by a Cessation of Hostilities agreement formally signed with the government in July 1997. As Manila saw it the ceasefire allowed for negotiations toward a peace settlement along the lines of that reached with the mainstream MNLF the year before. But before long talks had become bogged down in technical discussions over control of turf and the MILF's insistence that the government should "recognize" its camps — effectively signing over "liberated areas" across Mindanao to insurgent control.

To the growing frustration of the military, meanwhile, the Front continued to recruit and train and produce weapons, in particular, its home-grown version of the Chinese B-40 RPG. Its gunsmiths were — and still are — also adept at converting the .30 cal. M-1s and M-2s to 7.62mm, the same caliber as the M-14, which is common across Mindanao and for which ammunition is easy to come by.

Two events, however, radically changed the Mindanao stand-off and MILF links to the shadowy alliance of groups



MILF jungle transport. motorized and traditional.

committed to regional jihad — and, before long, to regional terror. The first was the war of 2000.

The War

After months of rising tension and ceasefire violations, AFP patience finally snapped in April 2000. Headed by then-Chief-of-Staff Gen. Angelo 'Angie' Reyes — today Manila's Secretary of Defence — the military launched a full-scale, Mindanao-wide campaign that targeted almost all of the MILF's 46 camps. All were overrun in a matter of months with AFP troops finally fighting their way to the center of the MILF's Abu Bakr HQ in July. After the fall, then-President Joseph Estrada choppered into the base to celebrate with his troops. But after a conflict that had displaced over 300,000 mainly Muslim civilians, feasting on roast pork and beer outside the ruins of the main mosque was probably not the best way to win hearts-and-minds.

The war cost the AFP around 300 dead and more than 1,000 wounded. Insurgent casualties were lighter, as in many instances the guerrillas melted away rather than fight for their bases. But the MILF suffered severely in the damage to its logistics and supply and command & control infrastructure. For an organization committed in theory to the principles of guerrilla warfare, the Front had become far too attached to fixed bases and far too confident that the military would never risk all-out war to overrun them. Both fatal mistakes.

The humiliating loss of its bases imposed major changes on the MILF. First, it effectively smashed the jihadi training factory, resulting in a sharp decline in the number of Indonesians, Malaysians and assorted foreigners moving through. Coincidently or not, just as the MILF was being pushed back into the hills and jungles, two senior bin Laden lieutenants, Egyptians Ayman al-Zawahiri and al-Qaeda military chief Mohammad Atef (later killed in Afghanistan in November 2001) were visiting Indonesia. Showing them around a country they were increasingly interested in as a base for operations was none other than Agus Dwikarna.

Probably as a result, jihadi training camps run by Dwikarna's Laskar opened-up in Sulawesi at the end of the year. An alternative to the MILF facilities, the new camps provided training both for locals, as well as for Arab, and other, foreigners. Funding is believed to have come from al-Qaeda.

Genuinely Mobile Guerrilla Units

In Mindanao, the reverses of 2000 pushed the MILF towards a long-overdue review of strategy. By 2001, a mili-

tary reorganization was underway. Dumping its claims to a "semi-conventional" capability that had melted before AFP artillery and airstrikes, the MILF set about building what it should have established long before — genuinely mobile guerrilla units. At the same time, defeat also sharpened the terrorist element within the MILF — or at least in the JI cell headed by Mukhlis and al-Ghozi operating in its midst.

The first revenge for the pork and beer at Abu Bakr came just days later, and a long way from Mindanao. On the morning of 1 August, a bomb exploded outside the residence of the Philippine ambassador in Jakarata, Indonesia, as he was leaving. It killed two bystanders and severely wounded the ambassador and his driver. During interrogation earlier this year — one year after his arrest and conviction on other charges — al-Ghozi admitted he had been responsible for the JI attack. But that was only the beginning.

By October he was back in Mindanao, teamed-up with Mukhlis, and planning a far bigger hit. Targeted squarely on Manila, the SOG operation brought together Mukhlis' access to explosives, funding channeled from a JI cell in Singapore to al-Ghozi, and both men's lethal skills. The result, on 30 December 2000, was a spectacular series of blasts across Manila that killed 22 and wounded nearly 100. It came one week after another wave of JI bombings had hit Christian churches in Jakarta and other cities on Java.

But al-Ghozi, by now an accomplished terrorist, allowed cockiness to get the better of operation security. Calling himself "Freedom Fighter," he rang the police switch in Manila from his cell-phone and announced the hits were revenge for Abu Bakr and the AFP's campaign. For the next year, a dedicated Philippine military intelligence group (MIG) tracked "Freedom Fighter's" cell-phone in cities across the country, figuring when it went dead for lengthy periods he had left the country.

9/11

In January 2001, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over as president from the disgraced Estrada. She was looking to turn over a fresh page in the troubled south. Following informal contacts, with assistance of Malaysia as a broker, Manila and the MILF began talking again in March 2001; and in June of that year peace talks formally resumed in Tripoli, Libya. Against this backdrop came the 9/11 terror attack on America and a new and penetrating spotlight on al-Qaeda's global web.

For many decent Muslims within the MILF 9/11 came as a brutal wake-up call that the jihadi brotherhood of the '80s and '90s had slid into a twisted pattern of indiscriminate terrorism that risked undermining the justice of the MILF



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SURVIVAL TRAINING COURSE CALL FOR INFO. (510) 669-9691 cause. MILF spokesmen scrambled to condemn the attacks, and al-Qaeda — and to deny any links with bin Laden or Jama'ah Islamiah. The Front also distanced itself from the ASG and its kidnap-for-ransom sprees and pointedly did not criticize the deployment of U.S. military personnel on anti-ASG training exercises in early 2002.

But the MILF is a house with many rooms. And in some of them JI was still operating, possibly with a quiet nod from the top leadership. Al-Ghozi was finally arrested in Manila in January 2002, en route to Bangkok. But right to his arrest he'd been organizing the purchase and shipment of one ton of explosives and a stash of M16 assault rifles hidden in a quiet suburb in the Mindanao port city of General Santos. Buried behind the house of a local MILF comamnder, the M16s, carefully greased and wrapped, were intended for the Laskar Jundullah across the sea on Sulawesi; the explosives were for onward shipment to Singapore and a final use against high-profile targets such as the U.S. and other embassies in the city state.

Dwikarna, too, was keeping open his contacts with senior MILF figures including the Front's foreign secretary, Abu Hairarah, and its finance boss, Alonto. Possibly on a damage-assessment trip after al-Ghozi's visit, he visited the Philippines in March 2002, transiting Bangkok and flying into Manila and on to General Santos. Ostensibly, Dwikarna was traveling as part of a business group prospecting mining opportunities in Mindanao. But according to intel reports seen by SOF he was in cell-phone contact with MILF contacts both before and during his one-day trip to General Santos.

Though he didn't know it, Dwikarna was already a marked man. Alerted by Indonesian intelligence (and very probably the CIA) Dwikarna and two other Indonesian "business associates" were carefully monitored and arrested on 13 March as they prepared to board a flight back to Bangkok. Charged with possession of explosives, Dwikarna, one of the key linkmen for terror in the Southeast-Asian region, later was sentenced to 12 years jail.

Given Mindanao's porous maritime border with Sulawesi and Malaysia's Sabah State, lesser fry have also been moving back and forth throughout 2002 and into this year. AFP intel believes up to 100 Southeast-Asian militants — Indonesians and Malaysians — are still hanging in with the MILF, some of them with Mukhlis' JI unit in the rugged mountains between Lanao and Maguindanao provinces. Al-Qaeda expert Rohan Gunaratna told SOF he believes as many as 40 Arab terrorists are also still with the MILF.

Unsurprisingly, harder heads in the Philippine military have been pushing for the MILF to be added to Washington list of FTOs. Arroyo's advisors dealing with the peace process have insisted, however, on giving the separatists the "benfit of the doubt" given their stated commitment to peace negotiations. Administration doves hoped for a peace deal with the MILF's moderate leadership that would bring in the rankand-file from the cold while isolating the small extremist wing with links to terror. The military could then pursue and eradicate the extremists along with the ASG.

In theory, it's not a bad strategy. The fly in the ointment has been the yawning indifference between Arroyo's peace negotiators and a military establishment headed by her hawkish Secretary for Defence, Angie Reyes. While paying lip-service to the ideal of a political settlement, the generals have pursued operations on the ground aimed at denying the MILF any opportunity to reorganize and regroup while talking peace as it did between 1997 and 2000.

In October-November 2002, and again in January 2003,

the AFP launched multi-battalion sweeps across different regions of Mindanao hitting both new and old MILF guerrilla camps in the mountains, thus breaking up concentrations of several hundred insurgents. "The idea is to keep them on the run," one APF commander told SOF."

Against that backdrop the February assault struck at the MILF's last remaining safe-haven, the Buliok Complex, near the Liguasan Marshes. But targeting the Front's senior leadership in the immediate run-up to peace talks scheduled for the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur in March had repercussions far more serious than the smaller operations of October or January. With a toll of around 160 fighters KIA and 40,000 civilians displaced, MILF leaders saw the assault as the end to what was left of the "ceasefire" and a final betrayal by the military.

On 24 February, over a week after the MILF had been ousted from Buliok, Salamat Hashim made an emotional appeal to all Muslims with access to weapons to "fight to the death." In a taped broadcast from a Cotabato radio station, the Front's 61-year-old spiritual leader declared: "We are pushed to the wall, we have to fight back. … There is no ceasefire right now, there are no peace talks."

But long before the public statement Salamat had issued a directive to the MILF forces to hit back across Mindanao. SOG commanders were instructed to target infrastructure in key urban areas such as Cotabato, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, and Davao. The result was a sweeping counter-offensive that included ambushes and raids on military posts and bases; bombings in urban areas, including a car bomb at Cotabato airport; and not least a rash of attacks on power-transmission towers. The demolition of one, late on 26 February, plunged 90 percent of Mindanao, the country's second biggest island, into darkness.

Then, just as the security forces were beginning to reckon the worst was over, came the deadliest terrorist attack in years: a large pipe-bomb exploded in a waiting hall at Davao International Airport that killed 23, including the suspected bomber, and wounded about 150. Predictably, the MILF's official spokesman was quick to deny responsibility. But police and military intel had no doubt the bombing was the work of a SOG team, and in the planning stages may well have involved Mukhlis Yunos.

If the Abu Sayyaf represented the worst the Philippines has to fear, tackling terror in the Philippines would be, if not easy, at least manageable. Containable militarily, the ASG can be slowly ground down with the assistance in training and equipment the AFP is receiving from the U.S. At the hearts-and-minds level, economic assistance packages to small poverty-stricken island provinces like Jolo and Basilan are not beyond the capacity of international donors.

But with its mass base, large guerrilla force and terrorist capability, the MILF poses far more complex challenges. Hammering it militarily may succeed in breaking-up units and destroying camps; but it will not eradicate either the MILF, or the popular grievances that sustain it. What it may well do is to radicalize its leaders, sharpen the willingness to retaliate with terror and broaden the recruitment base for terrorists within its ranks. The lessons of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are clear enough: Given enough popular anger, extremist organizations and terrorist cells cannot only survive, but recruit and flourish. If Manila is to avoid Israel's agony it needs to talk politics and isolate terror. Soon.

Mike Winchester plans future terrorism-related articles for SOF. $\overline{\gamma}$

Marine Corps Authorized SpecOps

Continued from page 26

the Marine Corps' USSOCom force. The detachment will be made up of hand-picked Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company Marines, radio operators and specialists in artillery and forward air-control.

Marine officials say the detachment will be trained to conduct special-reconnaissance missions as well as "direct action" rapid strikes to seize, recover or destroy designated personnel or materiel.

The unit will also be trained to conduct long-term foreign internal defense missions to help governments free and protect its society from subversion, lawlessness and insurgency. It also will conduct short-term missions to help friendly government forces carry out specific contingency operations to hunt down terrorists or eliminate training camps or bases.

Non-Denuding Policy Adopted

To allay any fears that forming the unit would denude regular Marine Expeditionary Units of their snake-eater contingents, Marine planners have been careful to mitigate the impact of moving 81 highly-skilled Marines to USSOCom. Planners have made sure to fill at least a majority of the vacancies left by the Marines joining the SpecOps unit. In some cases, for example, if 10 Marines are taken out of a unit, six will come in to replace them.

"One of the things that, rightly, a lot of the commanders around the Marine Corps were concerned about was that we'd cripple one unit or the other," Kyser said. "We came up with a plan where we could source the unit from throughout

the Marine Corps so that it wouldn't be any undo burden on one unit."

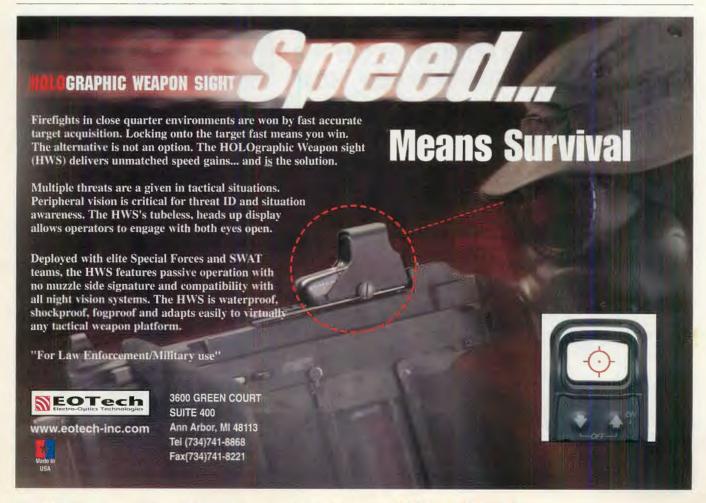
Additionally, to make the idea more palatable for the current members of USSOCom who might see millions of dollars drained from their own accounts to fund this experimental Marine unit, the Corps agreed to fund the entire two-year "proof of concept" from its own budget. Marine officials hope, however, that the long-term benefits of joining USSOCom will far outweigh the short-term costs. Tactics and technology used in USSOCom missions, such as psychological operations, civil affairs and covert aviation operations, could be incorporated into regular Marine missions as a result of the closer cooperation, officials hope.

"There are costs to the Marine Corps in standing up this unit," Kyser said. "But the gain is we expand both the experience and capabilities for these specialists. The Marines who serve with USSOCom will come back with not only a different degree of training but also a different perspective of how things work."

Change Of Mindset

Though the Corps' SpecOps force is finally beginning to gel, getting here wasn't easy. It took some time for the steely-eyed commando units to accept the idea of bringing Leathernecks into a command the Corps had held at arm's length for 16 years. They've been fighting America's shadow wars for nearly 20 without a bunch of Marines coming to play, why all of a sudden is the Corps wanting to put a team into the big game, many wondered.

"Everybody looked at each other with a lot of suspicion because they didn't know one another very well," Kyser said of the initial meetings with his USSOCom counterparts.



But both former and current snake-eaters are optimistic that the growing pains can be overcome and that a Marine unit in USSOCom will be a positive move.

"I think there's a lot to be contributed there," said Eric Haney, retired Army Command Sergeant Major and founding member of the super-secret Delta Force counterterrorism unit. "They're perfect for Special Operations Command because they're light and highly deployable."

But Haney — who recently authored a book about his experiences with the unit — warned that SpecOps Marines would have to

shed some of their "Marine-ness" to fit in with their commando counterparts. Special operators are free-thinkers — quiet professionals who don't shout slogans and often question authority, he explained. Marines can tend to be a bit single-minded and a little too gung-ho, especially in the lower ranks, he said.

"There are some real cultural differences," Haney said in an 18 Dec. 2002 interview. "The Marines are going to have to bring all their military attributes to bear but shrug off all their baggage."

Another company-grade Army special warrior on active duty, who preferred not to be named, was strongly in favor of Marines contributing forces to USSOCom. "I think it's great," he said, dismissing the notion that there were enough special



Marines from 6th Platoon, 2nd Force Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division emerge from Onslow Bay where they practiced combat-dive infiltration/exfiltration techniques wearing full combat equipment. Once in the water, the Marines can quickly move into cover and concealment, and carry out their assigned mission.

operators already without adding Marines to the mix.

"There are no crowded battlefields," he said. "There's a global war on terrorism."

No matter what controversy there may still be, America's commander for operations in Afghanistan, and any possible war with Iraq, is squarely behind the idea

"The relationship between the United States Marine Corps and special-operations activities I think is a very good one because I think that relationship is, in fact, not duplicative, but rather gives us the ability to be expan-

sive," said Gen. Tommy Franks, head of Central Command, at a 27 Feb. House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington. "It has to do with skill sets that I believe we recognize may be required in the future."

Kyser expressed confidence that his band of SpecOps Devil Dogs will be the nexus for an even larger force and a lasting presence within USSOCom.

"Once they get together in the dirt, like they did in Afghanistan, then they'll figure out who's the best tool for the mission," Kyser said. "The possibilities for the future are limitless."

Christian Lowe is a staff writer at Army Times Publishing Company.

▼



Afghan Mistakes

Continued from page 34

shed. I was the delegate in charge of peace-making among war-fighters, but I failed because in Kabul fighting started group against group, street by street. Streets became borders and you needed permission to move in Kabul. The city of Kabul was washed from the face of Afghanistan: 50,000 innocent Kabuli were killed and raped. Looting and killing became the routine of the day."

"The Taliban met the need of the time," he said. "The people of Afghanistan were so tired with Rabani's heinous regime, they begged for the return of the Russians. They were much better than the criminals ruling Kabul."

"The Taliban were the students of the Madrassa, or religious schools, made of mud and clay without civilization or electricity or bazaars or cities. They were trained with the ideals of 1,400 years ago by the Mullah of Pakistan.

"But the Taliban achieved two things: They destroyed the criminals in Kabul and delivered Afghanis from the communists. It became the most peaceful country of any in the world. You could go freely from east to west from north to south. Nobody touched your family, your money. But the Taliban did not know how to run the country because they were dark and they were not educated. They were instruments of their supreme command, the ISI and the

Suffer The Innocents

We spoke with General Safi's wife, who works with non-governmental organizations in London that deal with the Afghan crisis. She confirmed that hundreds of thousands of refugees and those whose homes were bombed are in desperate straights, hundreds dying of cold or illness daily.

From the beginning of the bombing until 6 December 2001, aerial attacks killed an average of 62 civilians a day:

- 11 October 2001, up to 160 died in the bombing of the village
- · 6 civilians were killed in the village of Qalaye Naizi in one incident in December 2001
 - 65 tribal elders were killed en route to the presidential inauguration.
- By 3 January 2002, BBC reports that the number of Afghan civilians killed by U.S. bombs was more than 9-11 death toll, a total 3,767 to 5000. We were unable to find a count of non-mortal casualties.

The Guardian reported that of 350,000 refugees in just one camp, Maslakh, 100 die each day of exposure and starvation. The director of Feed the Children is quoted as saying, "I always judge everything by what I have seen in Africa. And this is on the scale of Africa.

Medialens cites a report that said, "the small graves on the edge of the camp give clear evidence that most of the buried are children."

Iraq

DoD reports more than 85,000 Iraqi civilians were killed and wounded in the Gulf War.

And the U.S. Army War College reports that 1.4 million Iraqi civilians died as a result of the U.N. sanctions imposed since the Gulf War.

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Mullah of Pakistan.

"Just as the Osama myth was created, the Taliban were demonized.

"To think the Afghani is a member of al-Qaeda is stupid. It is nonsense. Those Afghani cannot understand how to use a proper toilet, how to eat proper and sit on a chair at a table. How can they be the sophisticated al-Qaeda, who orchestrated the attacks against America?"

"The most influential Taliban were innocent boys who did not understand politics. I can tell you none of those Afghanis that the Americans have in Cuba as prisoners are al-Qaeda. How can they come to cities to orchestrate terrorist acts? When you come to London you need at least three or four years to know your left and right. This is stupid to say an Afghan is al-Qaeda.

"Congressman Dana Rohrbacker wrote that the Taliban is the great element to fight against those criminals but suddenly it changed. The Taliban became demonized. The Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda have been very misinterpreted in the Western media.

"We Afghans never were terrorists. We don't need terrorists and we don't need fundamentalists."

Afghanistan — Where Allies Created Monster "Ruling Machine"

"You ask me why I am not cooperating with the present president of Afghanistan, Mr. Karzai. Mr Karzai, as was his father, is my friend. Just as Mr. Najeeb was the puppet of the Soviets after they withdrew, Mr. Karzai became the puppet of the Americans. Unfortunately, today the Afghan administration is being run by criminals who are on the list of war criminals in the U.N.

"When the ruling machine was kicked out of Kabul after the

latest bombing, the Americans divided the country and gave their choice of leadership, the communists, a new name — the Northern Alliance. Northern Alliance is the enemy of Afghanistan. I cannot set around the table with those criminals.

"Maybe the Middle Easterners have reason to be al-Qaeda or terrorist, but we Afghanis have no reason to be the enemy of America. We are tired. We are angry. We need to be helped, to be befriended.

Yes, you can blame the Taliban. But you blame the soldier. Why are you not blaming the commander who is sitting in Pakistan making bargains for Afghanistan. The authority of Pakistan tells the American 'We are in trouble. Afghanistan is the mother of fundamentalists. Please help us. Please give us money. Please keep us in Power.' That is wrong. That is like some magic they are playing with America. All these terrorists have their bank account, their money and training in Pakistan. It is all for the Kashmir.

"You Americans told me, 'Safi, when the Soviets withdraw, we will build schools, give medicine, we will give you tractors for your food to improve the country.' Instead, you give gun or machine gun. Today Afghanistan still has the same looting, killing warlords. There is no central government, no central authority and we watch while America plays its own game and as you invite the Russians back to Afghanistan.

"We are tired of war. We do not have a skill or education.

"As long as Kashmir exists there will be terrorist training.

As long as Palestine problem exist there will be problems. As long as the American forces exist in Saudi and the Middle East, there will be trouble.

"And, for God's sake, do not damage Afghanistan any more." \(\nabla\)



Continued from page 61

Re: Saddam's MBC Capabilities

Gen. Doesburg: "When you look at biological warfare agents, there are three important things to look at. First, can they make it? Can they get what they need so that they can make a biological warfare agent? That's not extremely difficult science. If you go out on the Internet and you so desire, you can go out and look; there are groups out there who even talk about how you



can, in fact make a biological warfare agent. The next most difficult step is now you've got to be able to put it into a usable form. That's probably the most difficult step, because the difficulty with most biological warfare agents is, they are not very robust. They actually, under exposure of extremes of heat, light and cold, die, because - think about it — they're living organism. That's how they operate. So you have to make it into a usable form. Then once you put it into a usable form, you then have to have a dissemination means which is not as catastrophic or would not be catastrophic to the biological warfare agent — meaning exposing it to

that heat, that light or that extreme cold in the process of putting it out there. As a consequence, there are selective agents which do very well. Anthrax, which you've heard about for years, is one of those because it's very robust. Many of the others are not as robust. And so you prioritize, and you focus on those that you think potentially are the most usable. The same applies to your chemical agents. Today in Washington D.C. mustard agent would, in fact, be frozen. It freezes at roughly 56 to 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

And it's not in a usable form. VX, because it's a liquid and it's meant for

> contact, in these particular environments, is not going to off-gas much because of the cold. And nerve agent GB or Sarin will in fact stay fairly low to the ground and not spread large distances because of the cold. Obviously, you can look at that differently when you look at extreme heat. Now what you have is a problem with GB, in that it evaporates very, very quickly. And while VX is a contact hazard, it will start to evaporate and you'll start to have a problem. Mustard agent will do the same thing. It will now no longer be a solid, it will go into a liquid form. So all of those are things that we have to take into account, as we look at chemical and biological agents, in how we, in fact protect our soldiers and then detect those agents if they're ever used.

"As you start reaching some of the higher extremes in temperature that you may in fact see in the Middle

East, the non-persistent agents basically are non-persistent for extremely short periods of time, which is important for our soldiers to know and important as part of the intelligence gathering that we may do. For the non-persistent agents, they will tend to vaporize at a higher temperature and will in fact offgas. For your biological warfare agents, of critical importance, particularly as you move into spring and summer, is the amount of light that's there. Many of your biological warfare agents do not do well under extreme UV [ultra violet light]. And as a consequence, as you get to where the sun is more direct, you have a problem with those being viable.



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As you look at potential scenarios that are there, night-time use is probably the highest likelihood. It's also the best temperature inversions that you may have for widespread use.

"The Iraqi capability is extremely limited. And we have — and I don't want to overstate it, but a hundred percent better capability to operate in the environment, a chemical and biological environment, than the Iraqis do.

"As any other country who looks at the possible employment of chemical or biological agents, they look at aerial delivery, they look at missile delivery, and then they look at artillery delivery, basically a spectrum of capabilities. There's also the possibility that their special operations capability could, in fact, employ them. But that would be against very selected targets and very small amounts because it's being carried in by humans rather than larger employment methods."

Re: Saddam's NBC Training And Equipping His Troops

Gen. Doesburg: "They have the Republican Guard, which are the highest-trained and have the best weapons and the best protective measures, and then you have all the way down to their irregular forces, which are less wellequipped and less well-trained. Because of that, across the board, their ability to both protect themselves and to be aware of the potential employment by Saddam of chemical weapons is not good. That doesn't mean that he won't do it. Just that his soldiers are not well trained, either in the employment or protection against chemical or biological agents"

Re: Saddam's NBC Intentions

Gen. Doesburg: "We need to understand Saddam Hussein, and every once in a while you have to go back in history to understand an individual. And most of us have forgotten the Iraq-Iran war, and that in fact, Saddam used chemical agents during the Iraq-Iran war. He also used them against his own countrymen, the Kurds, and he used nerve agent against them. During the Iraq-Iran war he used both mustard agent and nerve agents. He used classic employment and what I mean by classic employment is that if you were to look at any of the old books that were out there from the days we had an offensive program, you'd see that exact sort of employment, using a persistent agent along the front lines and then using your non-persistent agents to the rear so that as you made a breakthrough that you can move into that particular area. Now why is it important to understand history? Because we know how he used his tactics. What we do know is that everyone moves forward. And so we have to understand that and we have to be prepared for potential different uses for employment. I think the biggest thing that we need to look at is that during the Gulf War, he had the same capability that he has today, and he didn't use them when he had the opportunity. Because of that, first, we need to be concerned, because he's used it in the past. But second, we need to understand fully that he probably has some grave reservations about using those chemical and biological agents. But we're going to be prepared"

"Saddam used chemical and biological agents against Iran and he used them against the Kurds. And you can never mistake the fact that he's used them in the past and inside his mind is something that says, against everything that we know and everything that we feel in the world, that its okay to use chemical agents, because he's done it."

"A key battle in the Iraq-Iran war was the battle for Basra. If he didn't take back Basra from the Iranians, he had lost his access to the sea. And that's probably the largest battle and the largest amount of chemical agents that he used. I had the distinct displeasure of having been in Geneva, during the time that he was using chemical agents and I was participating in the chemical weapons negotiations. I will never forget an Iranian diplomat who came forward with a picture book of the exposures to mustard agent and what it had done. Probably most disturbing wasn't just soldiers, it was also women and children that that he had exposed to mustard agent."

Re: Destroying Saddam's Chemical **Biological Stores** And The Memory Of Khamisiyah

Following the first Gulf War between 4-10 March 1991, ammunition bunkers at Khamisiyah, in southern Iraq, were blown up by American forces. The bunkers contained 4.8 tons of Sarin gas which was released into the atmosphere. Troops downwind were exposed to the fallout of nerve agents and Khamisiyah has been suspect in causing Gulf War Syndrome. The Pentagon did not inform ailing veterans or the American public about the destruction of Khamisiyah and the ensuing

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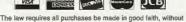






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hazard to troops until two years later.

Gen. Doesburg: "We spent a lot of time studying issues like Kamisiyan after the Gulf War. And as we look at the potential for conflict with Iraq again, knowing that they potentially have chemical and biological agents, and have them in storage, we've looked at the methodology that we will use to in fact first identify those sites, and then two, secure those sites to eventually destroy the chemical and biological agents that might be there. There's a lot of technology that's been developed since the Gulf War. There are specialized units, some of them in the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, some of them in Technical Escort Unit and my Chem-Bio Rapid Response Team and you can expect they are there in theater. Destruction of chemical and biological agents depends on what agent you're dealing with. Burning is not a preferred method of destruction. We use a normal demilitarization process, something called the Explosive Destruction System, which allows us to contain it. There are other technologies that are available for large numbers of potential chemical agents that are out there.

"Biological warfare agents on the other hand, by and large, exposure to extreme heat will kill bacteria and viruses. We would rather secure these sites than bomb them, because we want to fully investigate it. Saddam mixed things in his depots and weapons storage sites. You don't want to make any mistakes. You don't want to say it's purely conventional munitions and miss the chemical munitions. You don't want to say it's purely chemical and find out it's a majority of conventional weapons. You want to make sure you fully understand what's there before you take remediation measures."

Re: Tracking Saddam's NBC Intentions

Gen. Doesburg: "From a strategic sense, we have to be able to identify what his employment means are. If we can identify his employment means we'll take it out and we'll kill it. So that becomes very critical to us, what he used to employ it, because then we can backtrack and we can find it and we can kill those areas - or destroy those areas. From an operational perspective, you can anticipate that we're looking for that. From a tactical perspective, as you look at the battlefield, unless he plans on causing adverse action for his own soldiers, we will see indications at a tactical level that his soldiers are

preparing for particular use of a potential use of chemical or biological agents. So all of that is looked at, it's constant, it's ongoing. It's something that's deep within our intelligence community, deep within our operational community to look for."

Re: The Sentinel Chicken Defense

News agency stories from Kuwait recently reported the U.S. Military using chickens as a gage of chemical and biological attack danger.

Gen. Reeves: "Well, first of all it was the Marine Corps and not he Army that was deploying the chickens. I'm sure this is well intended, and based on the idea of the canaries in the mine, where you know, when the canary had enough methane, why, the canary stopped singing. That's an important point because if the miners waited until the canary was dead, they'd probably be dead too. Methane, which the miners were concerned about and never agents act on the body entirely differently, and it's a little bit counter-intuitive. It actually takes more nerve agent to kill a small animal than it does to kill a human. In fact it takes almost 10 times more to kill a small animal than it does a human. So we've suggested this may not be such a good idea When it comes to things like liquid nerve agents, like VX, we're afraid the feathers actually would provide some protection to the chicken. And finally having had a great uncle with a chicken farm, [I know that] chickens are spectacularly nervous animals. They will literally worry themselves to death. And we're a little bit concerned, as a practical matter, if you've got a bunch of chickens in a hot environment with a lot of dust, what are you going to do when the chicken dies and how do you decide whether or not you've really got nerve agent attack. So we've kind of suggested this may not be such a good idea."

Gen. Doesburg: "Our young soldiers are in fact trained and ready. The equipment is the best in the world. They have been trained at our national training centers like Fort Leonard Wood, they've trained at home station and now they're training while they're over in the Gulf. Our young soldiers are trained and ready and their equipment is world class."

SOF reporter Don North is currently embedded with American forces in Kuwait.

Bulletin Board

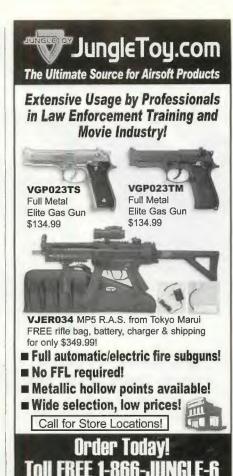
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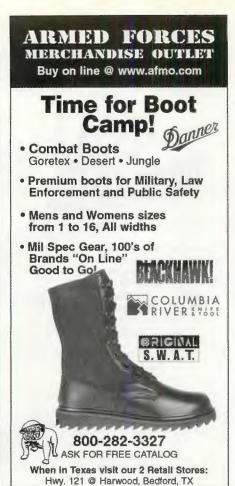
Zimbabwe Hunters: Heads Up!

As the gang of thugs in control of Zimbabwe increases their stranglehold on the politics and commerce of that beleaguered nation, the White House, to its credit, is doing what it can to ensure that American dollars do not end up in the pockets of those criminals who have taken over the country and are abusing its people and resources. By executive order, as of 7 March 2003 it is illegal for American citizens to do commercial business with 77 specified bureaucrats - or with anyone acting on their behalf or in their employ. Any effort to thwart this gang of rapine thieves is good news -

By executive order, it is illegal for American citizens to do commercial business with 77 specified bureaucrats — or with anyone acting on their behalf or in their employ.

but there may be an element of bad news in the executive order for anyone who has booked a hunt with a company owned by, or with a PH in the employ of, any of the proscribed individuals. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that those he deals with are "clean" - and penalties that can be applied to those who ignore these sanctions can be enormous: up to \$500,000 in fines and up to 10 years in jail. There is a certain amount of ambiguity attached to this matter, and the list of proscribed individuals is subject to change or modification. For clarification, contact the two federal agencies involved: the U.S. Department of State, and the Department of the Treasury. For information on the right desk within these agencies to get the information you need, we suggest a call to the Federal Information Center: 800-359-3997 or 800-688-9889. Climb through the telephone tree, and you will talk to individuals who in our experience have always been hardworking, competent and helpful. 🕱





I Would Like Your Advice

Andrew Molchan is the editor of American Firearms Industry, president of the Professional Gun Retailers Association, and The National Association of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers. They are the largest, and oldest gun retailer associations in America.

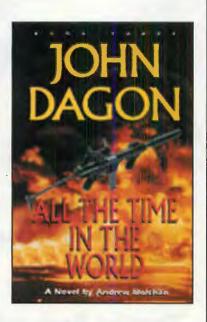
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Command Guidance

Continued from page 6

anointed pressies, the only way you could get to the action was to lie, cheat and dissemble.

Prior to the invasion of Kuwait in '91, to get out of Riyadh, myself and the military correspondent for a major monthly donned desert cammies, with no insignia, and floppy hats with airborne wings and passed ourselves off as CIA operatives.

For instance, on one occasion, we wrote a phony letter to Brigadier General Edison Scholes, Chief of Staff of the 18th Airborne Corps. We drove to the the perimeter of the airbase, our vehicle decked out with an orange aircraft-recognition panel on the roof and upside-down Vs on the doors and hood. A young MP looked at us and said, "Oh, you guys are special operations." We just sort of nodded.

"Do you know 'Orbit'?" he asked.

"Huh? We responded.

"That's the challenge; you're supposed to say 'Grammar.' That's the response." We told him we had been out of comm.

"Oh, OK. Well, 'Orbit/Grammar' is the challenge and response. At midnight it becomes 'Bearskin/Soapbox,' he said. We drove in ...

When it became obvious the invasion was about to kick-off. I linked-up with a Rhodesian ex-pat, Tim Lambon, who had painted his leased four-wheeldrive vehicle in vinyl-acrylic desert tan with the inverted "Vs" and orange I.D. panel on top. (Never did hear what the leasing agency said when he returned the vehicle). We motored up to a dismal 1/2-star hotel in the equally dismal town of Hafar Al Batin, where I then joined-up with a Saudi sheik to whom I had given an Al Mar knife on a previous visit. He offered to put us up in his "suite" which consisted of two dismal rooms instead of one.

About 0300 hrs., talking-head Forest Sawyer, at that time with ABC, burst into our suite and implored me to convince the sheik to allow he and his satellite crew assistance to get them up with the Egyptians. The sheik agreed to my request to assist Sawyer and arranged for them to link-up with a Saudi Armored unit. I decided to tag along with Sawyer's crew.

On 25 February, I looked over the shoulder of the ABC production chief as he read a note from Sawyer, who by this time was several klicks closer to the



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front. It said, "Lose Brown," I told the producer I saw the note and would strike out on my own.

I was 70 klicks out in the desert with no ride but managed to run onto Don North, who had contracted with the Saudi Defense Ministry to cover the war. He, in turn, was riding with a Saudi prince. And so I motored into Kuwait City, in style, through the cheering crowds as one of the first reporters on the scene. I still owe that maggot Sawyer a punch in the mouth.

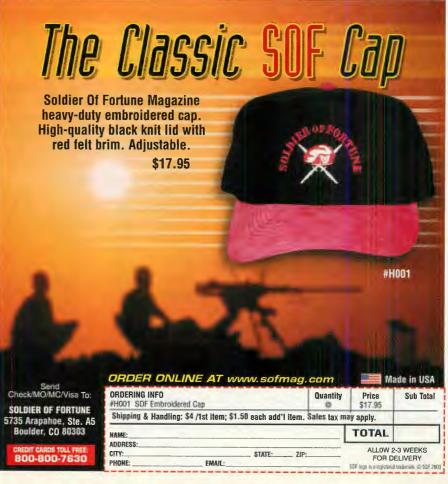
This go 'round, we are covering the war with:

- 1) Don North, who is "embedded" with the 101st Airborne.
- 2) Dale B. Cooper, who is "embedded" with the Marines.
- 3) Nate Thayer, whose last known location was in Baghdad.
- 4) Jim Bartlett, who is en route to Iraq.
- 5) Rob Krott, who is also en route to Iraq.

SOF set this up without any help from the "Colonel Blimps" at the Pentagon. Therefore, expect to see some superlative war coverage starting in our July issue. And, by the way, SOFers, thanks for your ongoing support. Pray for our troops!









Sound Off

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH, USA (RET.)

Pledge Allegiance To Our Troops

The horror of another violent war is "Blowin' in the Wind," once again polarizing our nation and stirring up the same passions that the Vietnam War visited upon a divided country in the mid-1960s to mid-1970s.

Back then, millions of people — young and old, rich and poor — defied authority in protest, burning cities and blocking troop trains, while American soldiers confronted their fellow citizens with rifles loaded and fixed bayonets unsheathed.

During that devastating decade, millions of ordinary Americans became totally alienated from both our elected leaders and the political process, many doing their level best to turn the United States into an anarchistic banana republic. Yet even though a surprising number of the "You can't trust anyone over 30" generation are now the graying power brokers running our country and calling for regime change in Iraq, they ironically have been among the first to demonize any and all citizens opposed to the military solution, labeling them turncoats and charging them with turning their backs on our president, our flag and this republic.

Retired four-star Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni — one of my all-time heroes — was recently publicly termed "that traitor" by a top Bush aide when Zinni dared to exercise his freedom of speech by sounding off against war with Iraq.

And as was the case during the Vietnam War, those opposed to a duel in the desert are just as meanly attacking the nearest and dearest of serving defenders, as well as the soldiers themselves. Even supposedly pacifist university faculty members are aggressive toward pro-war students if they suggest "rallying around the flag." An Army ROTC college student says one of his professors went so far as to threaten to flunk him. "Stop spouting your pro-Iraqi War diatribe in my classroom," he was warned.

In 1964, before U.S. conventional troops were deployed to Vietnam, my professors laid the same message on me when I was vocal in my belief that LBJ was right regarding the Vietnam War. Both the president and I turned out to be dead wrong, but so were my professors' threats and the actions of the dissenters on both sides of the war-and-peace issue, then and now.

So once again, both the hawks and the doves are all too frequently accelerating the debate from jeering and namecalling to full-on close combat, actually clashing on the



streets in bloody conflict — even though a major lesson learned from the Vietnam War was that our nation couldn't win without the full support of its people.

Another hard lesson we obviously didn't learn well enough was not to attack our warriors or their families. Sure, it's the democratic way to openly agree or disagree, but it shouldn't be the American way to vent on the defenders of our land or their loved ones. Just as the war in Vietnam wasn't of the troops' making, neither is the war with Iraq.

Our soldiers enforce policy, they don't make it. Attacking all-volunteer troopers who joined up to defend America won't resolve whether war with Iraq is moral or immoral, but as with Vietnam, it surely will reduce their fighting spirit and throw them off their life-or-death game.

In the '60s it was "Hell, no, we won't go!" Now it's "Hey, hey, ho, ho, we're not fighting for Texaco."

Back then, our heroes were routinely shamed en route home from the battlefield, spat upon and called "baby killers" for answering their country's call. Those stalwart fighters, caught up in a wrongheaded conflict where they fought with great guts, still haven't fully recovered from the emotional scars inflicted upon them by unthinking citizens who blamed them for our duly elected politicians' bad war.

Nor have they yet to be truly welcomed home or thanked and honored for their noble service "on behalf of a grateful nation."

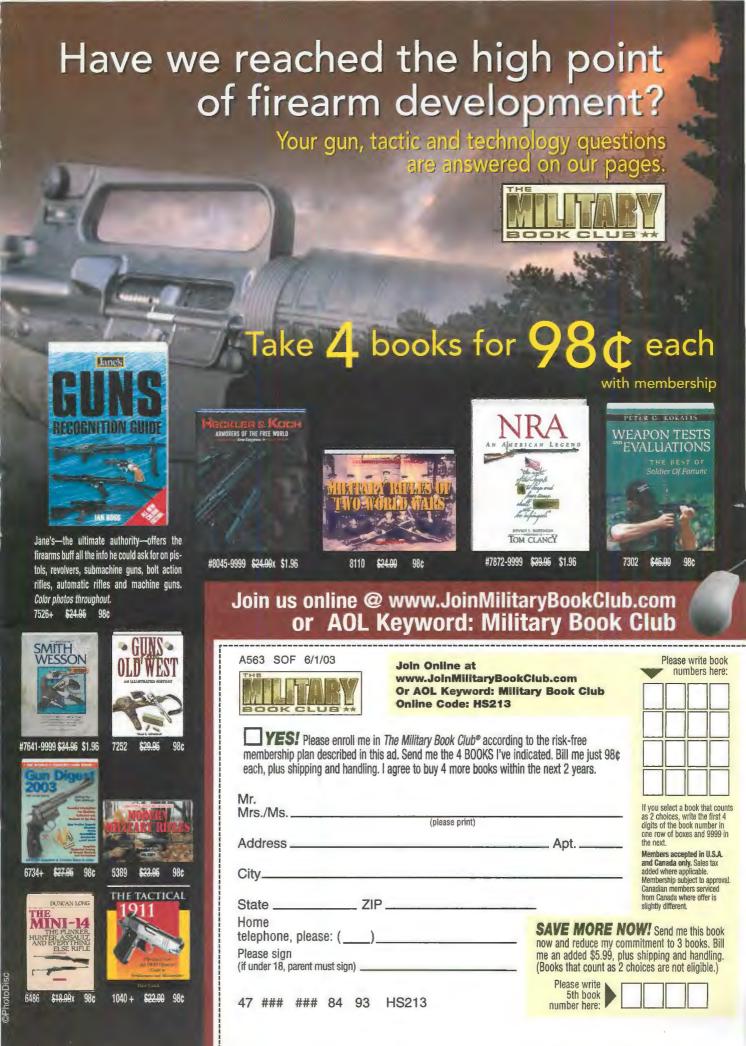
So if you agree with the president, let him and his gang know you're right there behind them. And if you disagree with the war, by all means lean on your politicians and try to make democracy work.

But lay off the troops, their kids and their families.

Hawk, dove or somewhere in between, we must learn from the Vietnam experience to always support the members of our armed forces and their families "all the way."

http://www.hackworth.com is the address of
David Hackworth's homepage.

Send mail to P.O. Box 11179, Greenwich, CT 06831.
Look for his new book, Steel My Soldiers' Hearts,
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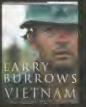


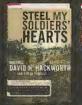
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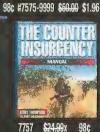


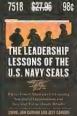


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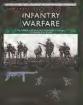








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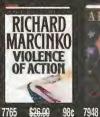
















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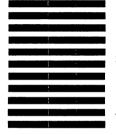
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